

Wakefield Business Alliance

January 8, 2009

Meeting notes/minutes:

WMS – Asst. Principal Wallace Sellers attended leadership meeting and discussed the goal of all high school students graduate on time. Wake County school budget will have 11 million dollars less to work with in upcoming years. Challenging opportunities for school. The expertise to help students will not only come from the schools but need information and assistance from outside sources as well.

Ms. Watkins and Ms. Wiggins do have speaker's bureau available for teachers to access.

April 3 – Career College at WMS and April 17 – Xtreme Beginnings Career Fair/McKimmon Ct

Those members present worked on signing into Moodle (our communication tool) and had an opportunity to register as a volunteer for the mentor piece of the Graduation Project.

Anyone wishing to do so, can go to any Wake County Public School and register in the media center.

Graduation Project: Kelly Clemmer gave an outline and information on Business Alliance role as mentors. The Product piece of the Graduation Project is the extension of the student's research. This is when the mentor is involved to guide them through this part. It should be started in the summer of junior year and can be modified in their senior year. Faculty advisors from the school work on all 4 components during this process. WHS has 670 Juniors in this first Grad Project class.

Responsibilities for mentor/product:

- 15 hours documentation on their log
- 5 – 7 hours of contact with community mentor

(at work place, by phone or email or combination)

Key Points:

- Student must own the product piece/Mentor does not do it for them
- Grad Project Coord/school follows up with mentor agreements for face to face contact request
- Phone conversations with students must be logged with time and date

Mentor guidelines are posted on school website and will be available on Moodle. Copies available at February Business Alliance meeting.

Goal: All need to recruit 2 professionals (neighbors, co-workers, friends) to become mentors.

Mentor packet/pamphlet is being revised in final stages. Kelly Clemmer will get out to us.

Barbara Wiggins discussed the current internship program (150 students) and states that it is a similar process and commitment made by students. Her experience has seen student transform during the process and it helps prepare them for the real world. The Grad Project is intended to do the same.

March Alliance Meeting will be a Mentor Workshop for those students who are having a difficult time connecting with a mentor or do not have proper resources. Held at

Key Actions:

Mentor packet/commitments by Bus. Alliance mbrs available

Moodle committee formed and add/review/work on loading documents

Need Friday Fair chair and speakers talk to students in classrooms before Friday Fair

