



Dr. Phyllis A. Chase  
Superintendent of Schools

Columbia, Missouri 65203

Fax: (573) 214-3401

June 20, 2008

Dr. Sally Beth Lyon  
Chief Academic Officer

Dear Math Community Advisory Committee Members,

Thank you as always for your commitment to excellent mathematics education in Columbia Public Schools, evidenced by your service on our Mathematics Community Advisory Committee. Our work at our May 6 meeting was a good step in the process of providing ongoing advice to district staff as we evaluate our mathematics programs, write curriculum, select materials, and design professional development.

Specifically at the May 6 meeting, committee members began the process of reviewing CPS curriculum objectives in light of state standards documents and the National Mathematics Panel report. Members also shared reflections regarding the classroom observations they had conducted throughout the spring. Minutes of our meeting, the record of curriculum document comparisons, and member reflections are enclosed.

The majority of committee members indicated that they would not be available for summer work but recommended meeting more frequently during 2008-2009. Some suggested sub-committees where appropriate to delve more deeply into topics of interest. Accordingly, our "committee of the whole" meetings will be held bi-monthly, on the following dates:

Wednesday, September 3, 2008  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008  
Wednesday, January 7, 2009  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
Wednesday, May 6, 2009

All meetings will be held at the Gentry Middle School media center, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., as was the case this year.

If we decide to form sub-committees for specific tasks, we will be able to schedule those meetings in-between the large group sessions.

Our staff and the elementary and grades 6-8 math curriculum committees are in the process of incorporating the suggestions from our May 6 meeting into their curriculum writing work. Our plan is to post a draft of the re-written CPS math objectives on our web site for public comment, much as the state posted the METS Learning Goals document on-line. This draft document will be posted June 27, 2008. We will notify each of you when the documents are posted for comment, as your individual responses would be invaluable. Of course we will also review these curriculum documents, together with feedback we have received through the on-line comments process, at our first MCAC meeting on September 3. All of this work supports our collective efforts to identify and address the critical mathematical skills and competencies necessary for our students. By acting as critical friends we can build these capacities together.

Thank you again for your service to our schools.

Sincerely,

Sally Beth Lyon  
Chief Academic Officer