

Site Council Minutes
May 10, 2010

Members Present: Kate Naganuma, Dacia Johnson, Kateri Walsh, John Miller, Sarah Lewins, Emily Neve, Nancy Conrad, Amy Stotts

- Looked at writing and fourth grade writing results
 - Observations on performance
 - Good performance overall including ELL
 - Comments: Jackson reports 60% of the Markham cohort of ELL students meeting writing benchmarks in 7th grade after 40% met in 5th grade. Indications are that Markham sets a good foundation for future ELL writing success
 - Dramatic differences between boys and girls
 - Comments: Gender differences are often pronounced in 4th grade writing . Discussed potential for researching use of alternative classroom arrangements such as balance balls and standing workspace that may better suit gender related study habits
 - Areas of writing strength
 - Voice continues to be strongest area
 - Sentence fluency and writing conventions remain the weakest areas
 - Comments: Direct instruction and active reminders for using writing conventions would help. Including advice for parents helping children with homework and 'at-home' activities in backpack bulletin would help.
 - Emphasizing writing for students
 - Investing and engaging kids in writing
 - Comments: Encouraging more writing in SUN school general classes would help general population. SUN school could promote some classes specifically targeted for children who need special attention to writing and are recommended to the classes.
 - Looked at comparison of writing report card grades between Markham and district averages
- Creating a policy for student non-participation in 'whole class' activities such as field trips
 - Comments: Parents should maintain control over what their children participate in. Non-participation is costly and unpredictable in terms of transportation and providing substitute activities/teachers.
- Summer Challenge is being prepared and will be distributed.

