

Autumn Rieger

### **Effective Citizenship Reflection**

#### **A. Identify the type of meeting you attended, its purpose and what took place.**

On March 7 2008, I attended a Parent-Teacher Conference at Lincoln Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting for parents and teachers to touch-base and get updates for the quarter. The conferences were 20 minutes each. I observed 4 conferences scheduled between the 8:30 – 11:00 time slots. During conferences, Miss Siegert showed parents current writing samples of stories they have been writing the past few weeks. She explained their proficiency, according to their test scores, and explained areas of strength and weakness. Miss Siegert then showed each parent the guided reading book their child is currently on. She then explained what they are learning in terms of nonfiction and where they will be going next with it, for instance, they will be learning how to research a topic. Miss Siegert then showed each parent the mathematics book and what section the class is working on. Miss Siegert asked each parent how their child likes school and if they had any questions or concerns. Each parent had an area that needed attention for their child and they worked-out a plan with Miss Siegert for carrying out. For instance, a check-list of school supplies that should come home daily, daily behavior marks, etc.

While observing the parent-teacher conferences, I was able to also be a part of two conferences with specialty teachers. In one case, the ESL teacher sat-in and updated the parents on her progress with their child. Another conference

consisted of the Reading Specialist and the Social Worker intern, where they discussed a plan for LD testing. This was a very informative meeting.

**B. From your perspective, evaluate the overall effectiveness of this meeting. Be specific.**

I think the overall effectiveness of the meeting was positive. Each parent really seemed to respect the teacher and what her concerns were or how they can step-up to help their child. I especially saw this with the one conference with the specialty teachers. They asked and discuss some personal issues, such as, health, eating and sleeping habits, and behavior at home. The mother is already taking action by having her child tested for sleep apnea, ADHD, and other learning disabilities. They have been working with this mother for the entire school-year and you could see how much she wanted to help her child. I think having the whole team of teachers at the conference was also effective. They did not have individual conferences, but came together to talk as a whole with the mother. Each teacher was able to contribute and answer her questions.

**C. If you could have been actively involved, what contributions might you have made and explain why you would have done so.**

I am very happy that I was actually asked to be involved in the conferences. Miss Sigert introduced me to every parent and explained what my position was. When she had a parent whose child I have been working with one-on-one, she asked me to explain to them what I have seen while working together.

Everything I mentioned had already been mentioned to Miss Siegert, so I did not feel like I over stepped my boundary. Miss Siegert continued to involve me in the conferences and asked for my opinion on a number of reading and writing assessments.