

Recognition Committee Meeting Minutes 4 to 5 p.m. December 14, 2010

Attending: Melinda Nelson, Mary Anne Stuckart, Kevin Johnson, Linda Miller, Susie Landsem, guest Brian Rick, Tanya Rowe, chair, Margaret Gude, recorder

After brief introductions and a welcome to new member Sehome teacher Kevin Johnson, Tanya Rowe talked about past the activities of the group, including the important role played in the Annual Awards program. She reiterated that the committee also gives guidance to the various other recognition events throughout the year. One update since last meeting on recognition activities is that the Graduating Senior Star Ceremony has been disbanded after a decision by the high school principals. The principals as a group felt that, at the end of the school year, there were many other ceremonies and awards honoring these graduating seniors. Several committee members voiced concern about disbanding this event. Discussion ensued about how each school has different recognition programs and perhaps an inventory of what is done at each school is needed. Tanya stated that if anyone has an interest in learning more about student recognition programs at other districts, please proceed with some research for the committee and report back to the committee.

Annual Awards documents were reviewed. The timeline will be adjusted to avoid report card deadline in early February. The scoring rubric will return to a 4-point system. Committee suggests reading through all the applications in each category before scoring, as this will help with scoring problems. This will be included with the scoring instructions. The committee expressed a desire, on behalf of teachers, that the annual awards nomination window stay open until after report cards are due.

Discussion led into the Superintendent's question about what the committee thinks about establishing a new award to recognize school achievement. The committee reviewed the School Board's newly adopted academic achievement ends and discussed this as foundation for this type of recognition and possibly incorporation into the annual awards scoring rubric. An example could be a Closing the Achievement Gap award. The question was what rubric to use for such an award: an OSPI index, self-nomination, exceptional growth in the established federal categories used to measure progress (low income, special education, limited English and ethnicity) or setting up a

district specific methodology that triggers a nomination. The committee expressed support for recognizing academic achievement and discussed a process allowing anyone to nominate a team of staff or individuals, recognizing all those nominated and selecting perhaps an elementary and secondary recipient in one or more categories annually. Tanya will take the committee's thoughts to Dr. Baker for a discussion of next steps and will report back to the committee

The committee decided to forward a nomination for Stephen Peters, districtwide classified staff member of the year, for the state Classified Employee Award. Jeff Coulter and Missy Ferguson will help prepare the nomination.