

Meeting began at 9:15am

Administrative Reports

Dr. Kroeze, Superintendent

- Adaptive Pause - The district has been working with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) to determine when an Adaptive Pause would be needed. There was not much guidance provided, so the district developed a dashboard and determined that if all factors were at the red level and stayed there for 2 weeks, we should start moving to Adaptive Pause. Currently we are in a high risk environment, the transmission rate and hospitalization rate in the area are up dramatically. There have been 8 Covid cases in the district as of one week ago which is pretty amazing. There were lots of questions from the staff and concern that this is a post-Halloween surge, and what a post-Thanksgiving surge could look like. Additionally, there have been issues staffing the 4 buildings, there are absences every day. Unfortunately, no one factor is going in the right direction right now. Therefore a decision was made for a 5 week pause with intentions to return to school on 1/19/21.
- Tier 3 Mitigations - Tier 3 restrictions include no park district activities. Dr. Kroeze has requested all teachers conduct their classes from the building where resources are at their fingertips. Some individuals may be allowed to work from home but that will be on a case by case basis and they must discuss with Dr. Fournier.
- Emily Taylor asked if there is anything specific that must happen in order for us to return to school in January. Dr. Kroeze doesn't think that levels will necessarily go down dramatically by then but hoping that seeing a turn will occur. There is definitely concern about winter vacations which is why the start date of 1/19/21 has been chosen. The district will be working with CCDPH over winter break, but Dr. Kroeze anticipates that the dashboard will still be mostly red. If everyone does what they are supposed to do, we will go back on 1/19/21. He did note that if the Governor issues a Stay At Home Order, then the choice will be out of the district's hands.

Dr. Fournier, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services

- There has been a substitute shortage. Today the district was down 5 substitutes. This forces difficult decisions like choosing to cover the classroom and forgo movement breaks like art/gym/music, or having principals cover a classroom rather than working on other issues.

- Still working on substitute recruitment. The substitute shortage is critical and real, substitutes are not always available when needed, and more substitutes are concerned with exposure. If you are interested in being a substitute, please sign up.
- Dr. Fournier would like to give a special thanks to the parents of the students at the Kindergarten Center. The children are so good. Also special credit to the teachers who are amazing at keeping the classroom positive (“borrow your regulation”).

Dr. Olson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Parent and Staff Survey Takeaways - Dr. Olson and Tarah O’Connell presented the results from the mid-October survey. The results were shared in the Board Briefs but Dr. Olson would like to briefly discuss some of the results here. This was different from a satisfaction survey - this was a momentary snapshot of performance after roughly 7 instructional weeks and the purpose was to gather feedback regarding the school year and how the district is doing.
- Feedback from the Parent survey conducted in the spring was used to determine the Parent Expectations for the 2020-2021 School Year which were as follows:
 - Provide substantial synchronous instruction
 - Implement a regular schedule to structure the school day for remote learners
 - Teach more curricular content
 - Assess student learning and provide feedback for student growth
- Survey topics included synchronous learning, social-emotional well-being, technology, communication, professional development, safety and areas for improvement. Since the focus was creating a short and succinct survey, not all groups (Parents, Teachers, and Support Staff) were surveyed on all items, and items that were excluded from the survey are items for which there are other mechanisms for feedback.
- Major Takeaways from the Parent Survey include:
 - Parents reported that this school year has been more in-line with their expectations or better.
 - Abouts 70% of parents reported high levels of student engagement in remote learning.
 - Overall, parents reported that their child’s social-emotional well-being is in-line with their expectations or better than expected.
 - Less than 15% of parents indicated a high level of stress related to remote learning.
 - At the 7-week point, teachers reported a reasonable level of comfort with synchronous instruction.
 - Teachers feel in-person students are highly engaged but do not believe remote learners are nearly as engaged.
 - Three-quarters of teachers indicated that the amount of planning time required for synchronous instruction is overwhelming.
 - Teachers report a high level of stress.

- Synchronous teaching is challenging. Approximately 60% feel well supported, but ongoing support by parents and administration will continue to be needed throughout the year.
 - Teachers have concerns about safety as positivity rates increase and request more specific details on all COVID cases despite legal restrictions on that information.
- It was anticipated that it would be 6 weeks for teachers to get to some comfort level. Overall, it is okay where we were at near the 7-week mark, but we would like to improve from here.
- Teachers are being offered PD days to work on Professional Development on tools in their system. However some teachers are so overwhelmed that the idea of adding professional development training time seems unhelpful despite its long term benefits.
- There is a discrepancy between teachers and parents on student level of engagement for remote students. Teachers have expectations for what the level of engagement should be and it can cause frustration for them. There is also a chance that parents have overestimated their children's attention level as well. There is definitely more physical movement (including flips on beds) from the remote learners.
- Teachers have off the chart level stress especially around planning time. It is important to keep teachers mentally and physically healthy. Teachers are doing their best to be calm and enthusiastic in the classroom but that masks their true teaching experience.
- There is very close alignment in the results between a teacher's overall feeling about the situation and the amount of support they feel they receive. Some teachers are having a hard time with support because the very act of accepting support requires planning and can be overwhelming.
- Next steps with the survey data include continuing to analyze cross sections of data, continue to review comments received, and continue to support the teachers.
- Dr. Kroeze related that he often hears from teachers that they are going home each night and working until about 10pm as well as working about 5 hours over the weekends to get the preparation done.
- The state of Illinois offers 4 Institute Days - 3 at the beginning of the year and 1 in March. In the past the district has tried to offer half days but parents did not like half days. Therefore, they took 4 of the 10 half days offered to make it into 2 full days. Those days will be used on December 18th (right before winter break) and February 5th (conferences).
- Also there is a little used provision in state school code that says any amount of instruction time over 300 minutes a day (does not include recess or lunch) can be banked to create WFS days (Full Day School Improvement). 4 days can be created and the district plans to use at least 1 per month if approved at the 11/19/20 Board Meeting. If approved by the board, they'll place the days strategically on Fridays as to not impact A & B days. The other option was a series of half days, but that is very disruptive to parents. If the board approves, a communication will be sent to all parents.
- More details on the survey results are in the Board Briefs.

Dr. Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

- Nothing to discuss at this time.

Mrs. Tarah O'Connell, Director of Communications

- The district mailer went out.

Mrs. Maureen Deely, Hickory Point/Kindergarten Center Principal

- Overall, Hickory Point has really accomplished amazing tasks this fall. Over 90% of the students are in person. There are 3 models for teaching in the 2 schools and Mrs. Deely is very proud of the teachers for their flexibility and devotion this year. There was lots of work put into opening the Kindergarten Center. Dr. Fournier and Mrs. Buchanan have really been supporting Mrs. Deely at the Kindergarten Center. They have hired many new fabulous staff at both campuses. The staff wants to thank the PTA for the Keurings and coffee last week.
- Hickory Point and Kindergarten Center students are currently practicing their zoom skills in preparation for the Adaptive Pause. The last full remote pickup is 11/19 at Hickory Point (for 10% of the population). Curriculum materials are being sent home with Kindergarten and 1st graders. By Tuesday 11/24, the chromebooks will go home.
- Mrs. Deely has been working on a schoolwide positive initiative and Hickory Point has been recognized as a Silver school by the state of Illinois.

Council Reports:

Emily Taylor, President

- The school PTA Presidents and PTA Council met to discuss directory distribution. Dr. Kroeze said that if we can get the directories to the school before Adaptive Pause, the school will hand them out. Emily and Mileen Zucker put together the first set of directories and screen cloths and those will go out on 11/23 and 11/24. They will do another batch with masks and gloves for anyone who has signed up by midnight on 11/18 on so they can avoid a material quarantine and those directories will also go out 11/23 and 11/24.
- Dr. Kroeze said the district will mail the directories to any families that sign up for PTA Membership between 11/19 and 12/2 on 12/10 and the district will pay for this.
- Any families that sign up for PTA Membership after 12/2 will be able to pick up their directories on 1/4/21 during the material pickup.

Mileen Zucker, Vice President

- Coat drive update - 25 big garbage bags of coats, mittens and boots were dropped off at the Oasis Mobile Park near Elk Grove Village. Thanks to Christie Paich, Dawn Ferencz and Martha Carlos for their help with the effort.

Lisa Woodruff, Treasurer

- Nothing to discuss.

Lynn Howard, Secretary

- October Minutes - Motion to pass the Meeting Minutes, which was seconded and approved.

PTA Council Committee Reports:

D27 5K Race - Mileen Zucker and Karen Frum

- Nothing to discuss.

Calendar - Lisa Buckley

- The calendar should be current but may change.

Communications - Anna Harris

- Anna will send an update to families about directory distribution as decided at this meeting.
- The PTA Presidents are great on delivery blogs on time. Good process in place.

Directory – Lynn Howard

- Directory Stats (at the end of this document) - A review of the number of hours required to create the paper directory and the electronic directory with hopes of furthering the discussion on the transition to an electronic directory. Statistics about the number of families with only Kindergarten students without directory data from this year (64%) and last year (10%). Concern that we missed lots of Kindergarten families in this year's directory. Need to either deliver paper directory forms early to the school this summer for handout in the classroom for the 2021-2022 directory or develop a better method for soliciting directory updates.

Hot Lunch – Jill Carter

- Currently on pause. Dr. Kroeze will set up a debrief meeting to discuss the lessons learned at the Hot Lunch trial from early November with the PTAs and Robin Bear. There was a different experience at each school.
- Mileen Zucker volunteered at Wood Oaks in the 8th grade room on the A day and it went fairly well. There were maybe 15 kids per lunch. Reports were that the Kindergarten was hard to do.

Environmental - Adrienne Mittelman

- Nothing to discuss.

Club 27 - Marlyse Serlin

- Marlyse has reached out to Bidding For Good multiple times without receiving word back.

PTA School Reports:

Hickory Point – Samantha Diamond and Kate Riggs

- Fundraising continues and the PTA is taking their planned events and making them work with the Adaptive Pause. The Lou Malnati's fundraiser was successful. There is a Max & Benny's fundraiser that will be announced on 11/20 for cookie decorating kits or predecorated cookies. The Trivia Night is scheduled for January. Birthday signs and spirit wear should be able to keep going. The PTA decided to put a hold on the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon with hopes that can do a Welcome Back luncheon in January instead. The PTA is working on teacher gifts and support staff gifts. 430 craft bags (including a picture frame and tissue paper for wrapping) were made overnight so they could quarantine in time to be handed out for the Winter holiday party.

Shabonee – Rivka Daar and Shaka Martin

- Shabonee just wrapped up the book fair. The numbers were down from previous book fairs, but better than the April book fair; and classroom books were purchased for the teachers. Candy apples were delivered the week of Halloween, and room parents felt good about the Halloween holiday parties. On 11/27 the Charleston Wrap Store ends. There is also a Lou Malnati's fundraiser this month. The last day to purchase yearbooks with a discount is 11/18. The Scavenger Hunt was the weekend of 11/14. Part of the Scavenger Hunt was philanthropic and Rivka will have numbers at the next meeting.

Wood Oaks – Anna Harris and Debbie Salzer Rothschild

- The Wood Oaks spirit wear raised over \$1000 for the PTA. They have tabled the December sweater idea for now. Teacher Appreciation was celebrated with a coffee and treats truck called "Cookies with Flavor." The Embellish fundraiser just wrapped up with over \$500 in sales. There is a Grill House fundraiser today 11/18.

New Business:

- None

Directory Stats:

	2019/20 Directory (paper)	2020/21 Directory (paper)	Electronic Directory (DirectorySpot)
Data Prep Time	not recorded	19.25 hrs	19.25 hrs
Directory Creation Time	not recorded	34.25 hrs (plus roughly 10 business days for directory print)	6 hrs
Cost	\$1989.36 (1080 directories)	\$2190.22 (1200 directories)	\$750.00 (for 1001-1500 students)
# of blank Kindergarten only listings /Total # of K only listings	7/68 (10%)	46/72 (64%)	n/a
Real Time Updates	NO	NO	YES

Meeting adjourned at 10:35am

Attendees:

Dr. Kroeze, Dr. Fournier, Dr. Arakelian, Dr. Olson, Maureen Deely, Tarah O'Connell, Emily Taylor, Mileen Zucker, Lisa Woodruff, Marlyse Serlin, Kate Riggs, Samantha Diamond, Rivka Daar, Debbie Salzer Rothschild, Anna Harris, Lisa Buckley, Adrienne Felder-Mittelman and Lynn Howard.

Next Meeting – Jan 20th at 9:15am – via Zoom