

Meeting began at 9:17am

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **Dr. Kroeze, Superintendent**

- Revised Health Guidance from IDPH - Revised health guidance was recently released and sent out to parents and teachers. The main change is that IDPH says schools can conduct school with social distancing of 3 to 6 feet. We believe we can do that safely. There will be 6 foot distancing for teachers, but teachers will still need to be extra careful as sometimes there will be closer contact. A planning committee at each school has been established to discuss logistics, feedback, and questions to prepare for the change. Dr. Kroeze will discuss these changes at the board meeting on 3/18, and believes that he will release a communication on Friday if approved. There is no solidified return date, although 2 weeks after spring break seems like the appropriate time. A negative covid test would be required from students who traveled over spring break before returning to school. Self-certification will still occur as will temperature checks upon entry to the building. District 27 intends to do 6 foot distancing at lunch with masks off, regardless of what other districts are doing.
- Per Dr. Rio, negative covid-19 tests will be required for students that go to orange states or travel internationally over spring break. Guidance is constantly evolving. Changing to 3 to 6 foot of distancing space between students will mean that close contact to a positive case would cause more quarantining since there will be more children in the classroom. So if one person comes back with a positive covid-19, more children will need to quarantine. There will be assigned seats at lunch and children will get the same seat daily. We still need to maintain 6-foot distancing while unmasked which would happen at lunch. We will still adhere to this. However when children are outside for PE, recess or lunch breaks or mass breaks, they can take off their masks as long as appropriately distance. There will be lots of work in the next few weeks, including the need to figure out desks. Four weeks ago Doug Heurich ordered 100 desks for the district, and the 78 desks that were borrowed from D34 will need to be returned on Monday. There's lots of details around arrival and dismissal as there are lots of cars in and out. With 8 weeks left of school, there is too much time to remain hybrid given the new guidance. This is more challenging at the middle school level since students will be changing classes. The guidance was revised last week and the number one priority is a safe environment. On Thursday and Friday of last week they began planning. Mitigation efforts still will be in place, they will still be cleaning and disinfecting, nurses will still follow decision trees, and children will still wear masks except at lunch and outside activities when appropriately distanced. They have had zero transmission in the 3 schools so far

they'd like to maintain this. There is no perfect plan, but if everybody in the community takes the responsibility, we can continue to be successful.

- Is there a way parents can help? Dr. Fournier is hoping substitutes will return now that vaccinations are rolling. They are hoping that tried-and-true substitutes will come back. We will need volunteers for supervision. Mrs. Deely and Dr. Fournier were talking about it this morning. Still need people the first half hour of the morning and at dismissal and at lunch supervision. It would be ideal if all volunteers are vaccinated but at the minimum they must be willing to be in closer contact with students as you will be helping in closer contact with lunch or morning responsibilities. They will be practicing social distancing, mask-wearing, and hand-washing hygiene for maximum safety.
- Will the daily certification form be updated? Yes, with the new guidance yesterday, the symptoms question will be updated. They will be sending emails with travel guidance including a map of the states of the orange hot spots. It's very important as children under 18 are not exempt from the travel order and so they will need to quarantine as appropriate upon returning.
- Per Tarah O'Connell: A survey was distributed to all A&B families in grades 2 through 8, and 95% of parents said that they would like to send their children back even with 3 to 6 foot distancing.
- Regarding 8th grade graduation, there are a couple of options. One option is that all 8th graders are back for a live ceremony as we believe CDC and IDPH might be loosening things even more. How would parents feel about 8th graders going hybrid for the last two weeks of school? The concern would be that if on May 20th there was a close contact and now 40 kids or so couldn't attend graduation due to only 3-6 foot distancing in the classrooms. The general consensus was yes, that would be better so that we could have all children back for the most normal of graduations possible. Dr. Kroeze said to keep Memorial Day weekend open.
- Overall, parents have been extremely patient and Dr. Kroeze really appreciates it.
- Vaccination of Staff - At this point 88% of staff have received their first dosage and more than 20% had their second dosage. Some people are deciding not to get vaccinated. We are hoping that 90% will be vaccinated by the first week of April. There have been 3 or 4 events that recently we became aware of so there are more slots opening for vaccinations.

**Dr. Fournier**, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services

- There are 13 retirements anticipated for this spring. As a result there are lots of hiring events going on. Retirees can be found in the Board Meeting Minutes and include Daniel Dondit, Lisa Reif, Mara Lovisetto, Saree Peltin, Helene Spak, Buffy Bolger, Pat Flynn, Rose Sanchak, Dr. Kroeze, Alison Kingsley, Donna Van Aman, Michelle Myers, Christine Sjogren. We are also preparing for the summer reading and math program and soliciting teachers to work that. There has been a decision made about the new superintendent and Dr. John Deiter has been given the position. On Friday March 19th, there will be a one-hour Zoom with Dr. Deiter with all of the staff. Dr. Kroeze is currently onboarding Dr. Deiter. Teachers have been under strain but we are looking forward to a bright future.

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

- IAR and ISA Testing - The District is preparing to administer the full suite of the Illinois assessment of Readiness. To be clear there is no District interest to administer this, however it is required by law. District 27, led by Dr. Kroeze and Dr. Olson have worked very hard to have the testing requirements changed. The State Superintendent has made small changes but has not made serious changes. As a result there are 3 math tests for grades 3-8 at a length of 1 hour each. There are 2 reading and language arts tests for grades 3-8 that must be administered. The grade 3 test is 75 minutes long and grades 4-8 are 90 minutes in length. There is also a science test that must be administered for 5th and 8th grades only. Dr. Kroeze and Dr. Olson implored the State Superintendent to make changes but none were made. It used to be a one-hour science test but it was changed to three 1-hour science tests. IAE and ISA schedules will be solidified once they know what school will look like, but it is frustrating to bring back kids from hybrid just to then sit around for a bunch of testing. We cannot not do the testing. Educators can lose their license. We also get Title 1 funds and Cares grant money, which is tied to the Title 1 funds. The Cares grant amount is in the six digits. There is no guidance from the state if lack of participation will impact funding, so the District will comply to not risk the funds. Dr. Kroeze called the Governor's office multiple times but never received a call back. They've done all that they can to change the state's mind and are not sure why they could not reduce the time length or number of tests.
- Summer Literacy and Math Success Program - As far as summer literacy and math success, 80 + students have already registered in 1 or 2 courses in the first round of registration. They are releasing a second round of sign-ups. There are some wait lists and they are hoping if we get enough kids we can open a new class. The in-person classes are of the most interest. Especially since they are now offering a companion piece where people can also register their students for Park District programs for the afternoon. This is an invitation-only program which targets kids with math and reading challenges. And the numbers of enrollment are up over previous years. Previously, the summer reading practice program brought in 30 students. There is a higher percentage in rolling now and it might be due to the length of the course. There will now be 2.5 hours of instruction plus another .75 hours of activities which now gives parents more coverage.

**Dr. Rio**, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations - Nothing to discuss at this time.

**Mrs. Tarah O'Connell**, Director of Communications

- Final re-entry survey went out this week - 50% of those children that have been fully remote are coming back for the final re-entry which is about 65 children. Right now we have 85 to 87% that are attending in person, they will pick up more with these new students, however, they anticipate that there may be other children who will leave the school and go fully remote as we are now moving to 3-6 feet distancing. There will be an opt-out form that will be distributed.

**Mr. Trevor Hope**, Director of Technology - Nothing to discuss at this time.

**Mrs. Maureen Deely**, Hickory Point Principal

- Everything is moving along while at Hickory Point and the Kindergarten Center. Mrs. Deely considers herself lucky for the partnerships with the families that they have. They have trained

some parents for lunch and recess supervision at the Kindergarten Center. They could not do it without the parents. On Friday they recognize students for great enthusiasm and hard work with a bunch of fun activities and a visit from Champ, the school mascot. They're continuing to make plans for 2nd graders who will go on to Shabonee, including planning an outdoor party with the PTA. They're looking forward to many students returning on April 12th. Mrs. Deely started a new kindness initiative which is in partnership with the PTA. Right now they are doing random acts of kindness, the PTA decorated the doors of all of the staff members. Wood Oak students in Advisory are writing notes to their elementary teachers. There is collaboration to make each day the best day. They just finished the book fair.

### **Council Reports:**

#### **Emily Taylor, President**

- Review directory meeting/spiritwear - There was a meeting with the PTA presidents about directory and Spirit Wear. As far as spiritwear, it is difficult to do for a bulk discount except for the grade moving up parties at the end of the year. So in the future it will be suggested that the 2nd, 5th and 8th grade parties can meet in future years to get the best pricing. The directory was discussed at the same meeting, and overall feedback was that DirectorySpot functions well. We have gone ahead and released a District 27 directory form for families to submit updates about their students or opt out. We have received 40 forms to date including 5 opt out forms. We are planning on releasing this new online directory on April 1st, and DirectorySpot has agreed to let us use the application for free for the remainder of the school year and will not start charging us until September 1st. At the same meeting we also discussed directory related processes, including membership and how that will feed the directory with names. Right now in the school fees process, the only email address received is that of the person making the purchase. In the cases where a second parent is buying a membership we will need to figure out how to capture their email address, but there is a workaround that can be used to make the process work no matter what.
- Nomination committee updates - Mileen Zucker is working on the proposed slate for the PTA Council which include nominations for Michelle Lebovitz for Treasurer, and Anna Harris for Vice President. Nominations will be posted on the PTA website for 30 days.

#### **Mileen Zucker, Vice President**

- - Nothing to discuss at this time.

#### **Lisa Woodruff, Treasurer**

- Treasurer meeting recap - Lisa was not in attendance, but Emily Taylor indicated there was a Treasury meeting and Treasurers are working to get all the PTAs at one bank that will be easier and allow them to do online banking.

#### **Lynn Howard, Secretary**

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

### **PTA Council Committee Reports:**

#### **D27 5K Race** - Mileen Zucker and Karen Frum

- We are still looking for volunteers for the 5K Committee and it would be helpful if the PTA presidents at each school put this in the newsletter.

#### **Calendar** - Lisa Buckley

- The calendar is current. If there are any changes that need to be made, please contact Lisa.

#### **Communications** - Anna Harris - Nothing to discuss at this time.

#### **Directory** – Lynn Howard - See the update provided under Emily Taylor's Council Report above.

#### **Hot Lunch** – Jill Carter

- Per Emiy Taylor, unfortunately it seems unlikely that hot lunch will happen this year.

#### **Environmental** - Adrienne Mittelman

- The PTA is preparing to sponsor a book collection for Bernie's Book Bin. They will be the main collection event on one day at the Northbrook Sportscenter, but they are hoping to have small collection bins at each school for the two weeks prior to the main collection day for books to be dropped off. This will be a mid- to late-April time frame to coincide with Earth Day.

#### **Club 27** - Marlyse Serlin - Nothing to discuss at this time.

### **PTA School Reports:**

#### **Hickory Point** – Samantha Diamond and Kate Riggs

- The upcoming Tasty Tuesday event is Hot Box Sushi on the 13th.
- They have sold out of 6 items of spirit wear in their online store and will need to reorder.
- Still awaiting final numbers from the book fair which ended on Monday.
- Also currently working on planning the 2nd grade graduation party.
- Square1 Art orders are due on March 31st.
- They're all set for elections and they currently have 75% of committees with 2 co-chairs for next year. They are feeling prepared for next school year.
- After spring break, room parents will work on teacher appreciation week.
- As Mrs. Deely mentioned, there's a kindness initiative which is a 13-week teacher and staff appreciation project. Some items are small and some are big. So far they have had a surprise Donut Day, chocolate bars in the mailboxes, door posters with what parents love about them. And this Friday there will be a video for the teachers and a food truck coming. They are just looking for a little ways to add sunshine.

#### **Shabonee** – Rivka Daar and Shaka Martin

- The book fair just ended - a huge thank you to Lisa Buckley and Deborah Eddy for making the virtual Book Fair fun and engaging.
- Square 1 Art ordering is underway and initial feedback is that the art done at home turned out very well!
- Tuesday's dineout was at City BBQ and the next one is at Marcello's.

- Each week the PTA does a couple of Teacher Appreciation activities and today was Cocoa Bombs.
- They are currently working on the Bernies Book Fair book donation event.
- The 5th grade party committee is actively planning the end of year activities and are meeting with Dr. Panozzo today. The yearbook deadline is coming up as well - this is the same deadline for both Hickory Point and Shabonee.
- The executive board is currently updating the bylaws. They are still in the process of searching for a Co President and Secretary for next year.
- They are establishing a more formal welcoming committee as this year has been difficult for newer families. They are creating a Welcome Packet (paper and digital) that will be shared with new families.

**Wood Oaks** – Anna Harris and Debbie Salzer Rothschild

- They have finalized the slate for next year and will post the proposed slate in Social Media and in the blog with the plans to vote on 4/19.
- They still need a Co President but Debbie Salzer Rothschild can do it alone if needed. Beth Sattler will be slated as Vice President, Karen Frum slated as Treasurer and Shawna Shwalb as Secretary.
- Fundraising has been challenging this year. They are scheduling a Do Rite Donut fundraiser in April. They had a great Claim Company dine out. They are committed to supporting local businesses with these efforts.
- Shawna has done an amazing job as the welcoming committee. They have had 3 new students in the last few days (one is in 8th grade and Mileen Zucker needs the name for the tshirt). We give the new students Spirit Wear.
- Mileen Zucker set up cocoa bombs for the teachers at Wood Oaks today.
- The virtual Book Fair only returned 25% back rather than the 50% from a in person Book fair, but they still got roughly \$1200 that Mrs. Cronin can use to pick books and products from their website.

**New Business:**

- None

Meeting adjourned at 10:31am

**Attendees:**

Dr. Kroeze, Dr. Fournier, Dr. Olson, Dr. Rio, Tarah O'Connell, Trevor Hope, Maureen Deely, Emily Taylor, Mileen Zucker, Marlyse Serlin, Kate Riggs, Rivka Daar, Shaka Martin, Debbie Salzer Rothschild, Adrienne Felder Mittelman, Lisa Buckley, and Lynn Howard.

**Next Meeting – April 21st at 9:15am – via Zoom**