

## Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 1, 2021

**In attendance:** Marielle Nelson, Marian Szewc, Kristin Ryerson, Melanie Anderson, Audra Myerchin, Jennifer McGowan, Todd Neville, Renee Grant, Susan Zottola, Trish Evens, Michele Napier, Kirk Kolb, Cassie Wilkins, Kim Moore,

**Absent:** Steve Monroe, Mirinda Chatfield, Chelsea Daughtery, Amy Wels

- Trish Evens welcomed the group and asked for an approval of the February minutes; the show of hands/thumbs up was unanimous. The minutes were approved.
- Ross St. Clair was present to give a short introduction and overview of the AP Environmental Science book they are proposing next year at GPHS.
  - Trish asked for the group to give a thumbs up if they approve of the book; the book was approved
- Trish and Susan gave a review/update on SIA (School Improvement Account). Trish shared a slideshow presentation as well as a link for parents to complete a survey. They talked about all the planning, brainstorming work groups that took place to determine how the estimated \$4.9 million dollars was going to be spent. They shared a little bit on what the district had planned for that money as opposed to what they were actually able to accomplish with the shutdown of schools. The district was able to add some additional learning space at both North and South Middle Schools, offer no course fees for Q3/Q4 at GPHS, hired a full time Behavior Intervention Specialist for each elementary school. Right now the plan, as we go into the 21/22 school year, we will be to update the HVAC systems at three of our elementary schools as well as North and South Middle Schools, add more support for mental/behavioral health throughout the district and possibly hire a Dean of Students for the Elementary schools.
  - Trish stopped and asked the group their input and if they had any questions. There was discussions about mental health and how to get parents engaged.
- Trish mentioned that at our May meeting we would talk about Summer School options for all grade levels as well as plans for after school programs for next year. She said they are working on the possibility of offering transportation for those students who participate.
- There was talk about changing the school calendar for next year to minimize learning loss and support academic success. They mentioned that with the new HVAC systems, schools could operate longer into the summer allowing the district to extend the school year. Trish mentioned that yearlong school might be an option as well with longer breaks throughout the year.
- Susan gave a brief update on Kindergarten Launch. She said that the elementary schools were able to hold a virtual Kinder Launch and that we currently had 96 new incoming kindergarteners registered. Susan said that we typically have about 200 students registered after the event, but to have 96 with it being held virtually was a success.
- Trish and Susan gave an update on where the district is at with reopening schools. They said that the CDC had updated the 6ft social distancing requirement to 3ft in the classroom, but still 6ft while eating. Susan said first grade is back to 5 days in person and going well. She said that elementary is moving forward with full time for grades K-5 with second grade starting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Susan mentioned that they have to make plans to follow the strict guidance for PE/Music and meals/eating as well as meet with the union before moving forward.
- It was stated that the elementary school is not affected by the county metrics count, but secondary is tied to the metrics and the count has to be under 200 in order to move to the 3' distancing guidance.
- Trish and Susan both said they hope to get back to business come the fall. They said there is a lot to figure out, but look forward to the new year. The first day of school is scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00