

St. Louis Park Middle School Site Council Meeting Notes –

September 22, 2021

1. **Introductions** – we introduced ourselves and shared something we learned during Covid
2. **Principal's Report** – Les Bork + Jason Boll
 - a. Physical altercation at school yesterday; significant event - happened during passing time – many students around when it happened. No weapons involved. Feeling of security and safety critical. Discussed with students today; have tightened up rules during passing time/unstructured time. Two changes implemented: teaching staff in the halls greet students arriving to class; teachers close doors when class starts. If students are late, hall monitors accompany students to class. Punctuality has improved.
6th and 7th graders are essentially new to school – re-teaching what it means to be a student at school and expectations of students. Discussion of wish for further information; discussion of resources to support such as psychological first aid training to help. Recommendation to share the above more broadly including mitigation/broad actions taken.
 - b. Spirit Week Activities – held grade-level pep fest to kick off last Friday – went very well. Theme days each day this week.
 - c. By the numbers: Student enrollment - 1021 Students; one of the largest middle schools in the state. 21 new staff members this year – teachers, cooks, counselors, multiple roles.
 - d. Building – really happy with it. Punch lists not done – still working through. Bottom line – it's beautiful and we're still working out details.
 - e. COVID – last year we had to COVID trace; this year we don't have to contract trace when masks are worn. We do contract trace at lunch – we track where people sit.
 - f. Leadership Update – Principal Les Bork will take a 2-3month medical leave this fall. During that time Jason Boll will serve as Principal. Gina Magnuson will be Assistant Principal. Derek Wennerberg will serve as 7th grade Dean of Students. Remaining Phy Ed Teachers will each take on additional class.
3. **School Board Report** – Laura McClendon
 - a. School Board has a draft Racial Equity policy. It was shared at the September Board meeting. It is open for reaction and commentary (working to get the link). Send feedback to: schoolboard@slpschools.org.
 - b. The School Board is looking for community feedback on the 3rd disbursement of ESSER funds through the American Rescue Plan (approx. \$4million). Must be used to mitigate effects of Covid. Seeking community input on how to utilize – send feedback here: <https://form.jotform.com/2125766>. May also email schoolboard@slpschools.org.
4. **Budget and Fundraising Update** – Mindy Krone
 - a. Projected Income of \$12k. Expenses \$24k (grade level field trips, global interns, year-end celebrations, back-pack buddies school supplies).
 - b. Fundraising – going well – \$11k already raised. Venmo new this year. 21 prizes given away per day for kids who bring back envelopes (regardless of if/donation amount). Asking for \$20/family vs. \$50 in the past. Jason commented that STEP provided school supplies for 101 students including backpacks.

5. **Committee Review** – Julie Yakes. We form committees to be a working group/move initiatives forward to benefit students and families. Julie will send a request for members to respond with their first and second committee choices.
- Communications - Jason Boll/Frances Egan. Ideas are parent handbook, communication approach for communicating incidents to parents, website review. Request to consider a parent handbook, especially for new students.
 - Racial Equity - Heidi Meyer. Focus areas will likely be continued anti-racism learning for committee members, parent/guardian/community education, and seeking student input to form a meaningful anti-racism action plan.
 - Mental Health - Julie Yakes – goal is to normalize mental health needs. Last year was brainstorming around how – leveraging advisory; social workers also doing similar. Staff appreciation efforts last year. Continue this year and focus on students as well.
6. **IB Re-Authorization** – Mia Waldera. SLP MS is an IB World School. We were authorized as IB World School in 2016. In Fall 2020 we started the self-study cycle which is completed every 5 years on IB standards and practices, and where we are in regard to their implementation. Submission due to IB on December 1 to demonstrate we are meeting standards and practices. World IB visit scheduled for March 22 has been amended to the 22-23 school year, to accommodate staffing resource constraints (medical leaves included) and to align with visit timing for other schools in the district.
7. **Open Forum**
- a. Karita Bentley – Global Intern Coordinator – Interns from Spanish-speaking countries teach in language classes and improve their own English-language skill; live with host families. A new intern arrived from Colombia this week.
 - b. Site Council – leadership opportunities and lots of openings next year as several “graduate”

SITE COUNCIL LEADERSHIP	School Year 20-21
Chair (Outgoing)	Julie Yakes - 8th grader
Chair	OPEN
Treasurer	Mindy Krone - 6th grader
Secretary	Heidi Meyer - 8th graders
Communications	Frances Egan - 8th grader
Fundraising 1	Tracey Eichten - 7th grader
Fundraising 2	OPEN
 - c. Online school supply ordering? We do not have this currently – can explore.
 - d. Kudos – a student was quarantined Day 3 – communication went smoothly; he was provided assignments. Appreciate the communication – well done!
 - e. Inquiry about TikTok inspired damage at schools – appears to have subsided. Some odd/random things impacted.
8. **Meeting Close** – look for budget update and committee requests to follow. Reach out to Julie with any feedback or questions. Next meeting October