

## St. Louis Park Middle School Site Council Meeting Notes

October 13, 2021

1. **Icebreaker** – we shared something fun we're planning to do during MEA next week
  
2. **Principals' Report** – Jason Boll and Gina Magnuson
  - a. Les Bork (Principal) had surgery two weeks ago – recovery going well. Jason Boll is interim Principal. Gina Magnuson is interim Assistant Principal. Derek Wennerberg, physical education teacher is interim 7th Grade Dean of Students.
  
  - b. MAP testing is next week for all students. Students will test on assigned Chrome books and all at the same time. Monday 10/18 - 1<sup>st</sup> hour through 3<sup>rd</sup> hour. Tuesday – 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> hours. Make up testing will be over MEA break.
  
  - c. 8<sup>th</sup> grade interdisciplinary program has started - INS + Science. Going to REM 5 – Virtual Reality week of Nov 1. (3 classes go per day.) Virtual visit to Africa – Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya; students will also learn about VR. Funded by a grant from SLP foundation. Also learning about Lost Boys of Sudan. Science - learning about empathy for others around the world, how others go to school (if no light for example), other sources of energy. Learn about direct currents. Students will build a solar suitcase with wires and learn the control board. SLP MS will send one solar suitcase to Kenya or Uganda to help schools without light. Will exchange messages with receiving school – 2-way communication exchange.
  
  - d. New performing arts space - received approval to use the new space. Spelling bee, musical auditions, in November. Concerts in December. Excited and looking forward to using the new space for performance.
  
  - e. Clubs are re-starting (paused due to Covid) – eg math team, quiz bowl, orchestra club.
  
  - f. Upcoming asynchronous learning day – Wednesday November 17. Students will be learning from home via Schoology. Teachers will be meeting with families for student led conferences these days.
  
  - g. School-wide values and beliefs: two student leadership teams (Rules and Policy, Community and Culture group - about 35 kids) developed school-wide values and beliefs. Came completely from student body. Will be shared with school community – communication plan is being developed.  
**S**safety and Respect.

Leading by Example.  
Positive Language.

Mask Up.  
SLP Strong!

### 3. **School Board Report** – Laura McClendon

- a. Some incidences of quarantining - mostly in lower grades. Transmission at school occurred for the first time in 18 mos
- b. Please continue to reinforce mask wearing. Vaccinate kids if eligible. Keep kids home if sick and see Schoology for assignments... So that we can maintain in-person learning/prevent shut-downs. MDH says we are doing an excellent job.
- c. Thank you - first 6 weeks of school – good to be back with more normal year... keep it up!

### 4. **Budget and Fundraising Update** – Mindy Krone

- a. Spirit week donations were \$12.5k vs goal of \$11.7k. Anticipate total to go up to approx. \$13k as corporate matches roll in. Well positioned for the year.
- b. We will spend on global interns (\$5k), grade-level field trips (\$10k), backpack buddies (\$1.5k), year-end celebrations (\$2.5k). Student/classroom support (\$1.2 k), Other – approx. \$1.3k -see budget for detail.
- c. Note on Global Interns. We have only one thus far this year, uncertain if we will get a second. Site Council funds one (\$5k), and Les/Jason fund a second. Stipend is expected to increase next year – will factor into the budget.

### 5. **Committee Reports** –

- a. Communications – Frances Bressman-Egan and Gina Magnuson. The group discussed making a communication tree, FAQs/new parent guide. They will start with a review of the new website.
- b. Racial Equity – Heidi Meyer. The group did introductions and talked about why they want to work on Racial Equity. They reviewed sub-committee opportunities and agreed to meet 2x/month to have a monthly session dedicated to self-learning time. Members will review and provide feedback on the district’s draft Racial Equity policy by 10/26 per a request from Laura McClendon. Discussion about what parents are hearing from students as it relates to racial equity, as well as wanting to know more about how students are learning to speak about racial equity and take anti-racist action at school so that parents can be part of the good work taking place in SLP Schools.
- c. Mental Health – Julie Yakes. The group did intros and why they wanted to work on Mental Health committee. Then completed brainstorming session around items we could

potentially do to help the students. Also spent last couple minutes touching on ideas for Staff.

## **6. Open Forum – All**

- a. Inquiry about the fight we heard about last month – is there any follow up on the topic? Jason Boll advised culture and climate continue to be a significant focus. Teachers and staff continuing to make both as good as they can.
- b. Inquiry about TikTok-driven bathroom vandalism. Jason advised vandalism has occurred in bathrooms and several bathrooms remained locked and awaiting repair or for monitoring. Credit to custodians to keep building clean in the face of this. Single-use bathrooms are open. More female bathrooms are closed at this time than male. Request to look at the implications for students identifying as girls – in terms of their needs, stress and anxiety lack of access may create. Jason agreed to factor this into decisions for prioritizing repairs and bathroom re-opening. There are hallway supervisors, teachers in the halls to help students navigate to the closest bathroom.

Next meeting Nov 10