Superintendent's Advisory Council Talking Points
October 1, 2014

Develop and finalize agenda

On behalf of Country Village Day School, Mark Eskridge thanks the City of Mercer Island and School Board for their patience and hard work to keep early childhood education on Mercer Island.

Role and purpose of SAC

The Superintendent's Advisory Council is a representative body that will communicate with stakeholder groups on a variety of important topics raised by the Superintendent and raised by SAC members. The SAC will advise the Superintendent on policy matters as they pertain to topics discussed at SAC meetings. Part of this group's role is to confront information in the community and clarify information.

2014 bond projects

All of the facilities projects are on schedule and on budget. After the demolition and abatement take place on the North Mercer campus, bids will go out for construction of Elementary No. 4.

We do not anticipate additional impact, just possibly some noise. There should be a traffic improvement once the new school is operational.

Community Task Force on Youth Concerns

Last year Superintendent Plano shared his concerns for having a healthy community. Some wellness concerns such as being drug free and living a healthy lifestyle are critical to student learning.

Cindy Goodwin says last spring she went before the City Council and School Board about addressing root causes of issues that lead to drug use. Cindy says our concerns mirror more affluent communities with private schools rather than most public schools. Beyond drug use, lying and cheating are concerns as well. Cindy says we will come back to the school board and city to share the finding of the report.

Technology Advisory Group and Learning Services

Jennifer Wright says these groups will bring in stakeholders to provide input in the instructional and operational programs of the MISD. The Technology Advisory Group will be re-established to talk about trends and projects that the district is planning to implement, and to advise the district on a five-year plan about how we plan to use technology – what is in the best interests of students and student learning.

The Learning Services Advisory Group will talk about programs changes, input, development to get more information to the community about what the district is doing and where we are going. This will help us prioritize the district's resources and energy.

Different Learners Review Committee will also meet three times this year.

Diversity Advisory Committee

Gary says that he has launched the Diversity Advisory Committee, comprised of parent and community representatives who will advise him on matters of diversity and equity. The Diversity Advisory Committee is charged with reviewing the district's continued efforts to provide all students, irrespective of racial and ethnic differences, with access to the following: equity of educational opportunity; individual empowerment; and, equal and fair treatment.

David D'Souza, who is on the committee, says the committee is going well and building trust. Gary is doing great work to facilitate the committee. There is also an impact from people who come from different countries and have viewpoints. David says the world is flat and what Gary is doing here is great, that it's a tough space, and that this is a good strategy.

District Boundary Committee

The district needs to re-boundary the elementary schools with the addition of the fourth elementary school in the 2016-17 school year. By February 28, 2015, the committee will present a recommendation to the Superintendent for new elementary school boundaries for the four elementary schools to determine school placements for students beginning with the 2016-17 school year. District programs are determined by the Superintendent and instructional team in a north/south configuration and will be shared with the Committee at the appropriate times.

School Closure

The district closed school facilities on the weekend after being notified of contaminated water. Toby thought the communication from the district was good and consistent, but was concerned because he only got information late on Monday from the city. Debbie says this was a test for the city and community. There are tremendous lessons to be learned about city emergency preparedness. Cindy asked how many in the room received the City call alerting the community to the emergency. Nobody in the room received the call.

Security

Security is critical in the district and staff, volunteers and consultants are required to wear a badge. Regarding school transportation, there are procedures for students taking different bus routes home or going to school. There are protocols in place.

Future meetings of the SAC

Tuesday, February 3, 2015	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Board Room
Thursday, June 4, 2015	9:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Board Room

Gary adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.