

LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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“Partnering with students, families, and community to provide opportunities for life-long success through academic excellence and individual growth in a safe and supportive environment.”

Elementary Center Transition Team Meeting Monday, June 12, 2017 – 3:00 p.m. Administration Building

In Attendance: James Blakeslee, Jessica Bruch, Jonathan Cleaver, Denise Gerber, Suzanne Howland, Chris Knappenberger, Sean LeDonne, Ashley Lichtenwalner, Kimberly Lusch, Mark McGalla, Amanda Rex, Wanda Rousenberger, Rhonda Rupell, Megan Scimeca, Aaron Sebelin, Tiffany Strausberger, Timothy Tkach, Jan Wentz, Rhonda Zerbe

Mr. Cleaver thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Cleaver

Decisions of the committee will carry in to the new building for transition. Principals have received packets on transition to an elementary center. This will be new for everyone. We will use the team process to make a smooth transition. The District has researched other districts that have transition in the same way. Most information states that the students transition well, the parents and staff are normally more apprehensive.

This committee will get the information out to other staff members. Elementary administration, along with board members, has met with the PTO at all current elementary buildings regarding the transition.

A handout was passed out regarding reoccurring questions about the transition.

- 1) Before & After-School Programs
- 2) Bussing
 - a. Pick up & drop off locations
 - b. Timing of busses entering and leaving
 - c. 1st year will be a trial period
- 3) Class Size
 - a. Largest class would be 21 students (at this time if we are opening for the 17-18 SY) for grades 1-5 and 18-19 students for Kindergarten
 - b. Each classroom has a maximum occupancy of 25 students
- 4) PTO Setup – no involvement by district, must create new by-laws
- 5) Personnel placement
- 6) SuccessMaker
- 7) Gym
 - a. Gym is 12,000 square feet
 - b. During the day it will be used by elementary center students only. With maybe an exception of indoor graduation practice if needed.

“Educating together to prepare our students for life’s journey.”

“Commitment to Excellence”

- 8) Offer Clubs
- 9) Culture of Building – Grades K-2, 3-5
- 10) Building Safety
 - a. Upgraded technology, 40 or more cameras, principals will have monitors
- 11) Technology
 - a. More than enough, mobile labs, etc.

The Elementary Center timeline is an estimate of finished in May 2018 and moving in as of July 2018.

A handout of the renderings of the buildings was given to the committee. Mr. Cleaver will provide more renderings at the next meeting. The building is very inviting. Every classroom will have a sink, storage, and tackable surfaces. Library is large and the students will all have lockers.

The team can brainstorm on sub-committees, i.e. orientation, moving (staff), etc. Possibility of survey for teachers developed by the team.

There will be time allotment for the setting up of the classrooms (exchange time). We will make this transition as smooth as possible.

Mr. Cleaver asked if the team would like to departmentalize. The 5th grade at MS does this now. One teacher teaches 2 subjects and the other teacher on the team teaches 2 subjects. Elementary at this time teaches as a contained classroom. Departmentalizing allows for moving students from one classroom to another. If going this direction, the District would need to make the decision by August 2017. There will be 8 teachers on average per grade level. Based on the student counts, there is a possibility of 9 teachers some years.

Next meeting TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.