

## School Community Network Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

LRC

**Present:** Alicia Emanuel, Laine Buck, Sarah Willoughby, Annie Tekkipe, Tessa Martin, Cally Roehrick, Lisa Earles, Ashley Thoreson, Tiffany Barlow, Emily Mayfield, Suzy Hider, Dr. Matt Adams, Lila Starr

**Called to order** at 11:32

**West Des Moines Community Schools Foundation:** Tiffany Barlow, President, provided an overview and update on the Foundation.

Four executive officers, all with day jobs. Seeking additional help. Have a goal of hiring a paid Executive Director.

Strategic plan with 3 targets.

- 1) Raise money to fill gaps with the district.
  - a) Scholarship fund.
  - b) Affiliates using foundation's 501c3 status to raise funds.
  - c) Identifying and spending out old earmarked funds.
  - d) Teacher grant program, revamping, "stripes of support."
  - e) Financial hardship program in progress.
- 2) Working on improved communication with the district, families, community. Working on transparent reporting.
- 3) Looking at/talking to neighboring foundations to ensure finding opportunities and capitalizing on them.

Fundraising - want three events a year: Tiger Run, Golf in the Halls, Tiger Gala.

Alumni Association - work in progress. Find people who want to support/give back.

Corporate giving strategies.

Foundation sustainability - working on bylaws, reviewing policies, seeking new accountant, looking for new board members.

wdmcsfoundation.org (will be updating website down the road), [wdmcsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:wdmcsfoundation@gmail.com)

Facebook: wdmcsfoundation - trying to highlight parent group stuff on their FB page.

Want to act as information source for parent groups on things like setting up a Venmo, picking a good fundraising sites, setting up fundraisers.

Interested in holding a talk or creating a video to help parent groups on these subjects.

Alicia requested foundation connect with high school booster associations on low-cost, simple fundraising opportunities.

Question about Letterman Apparel revenue sharing -

One year revenue was shared with parent groups. Laine believes district revenue from apparel sales is shared equally among all buildings. When a parent group or building sets up their own pop-up online apparel shop, the 15% revenue goes directly to that group or building.

**Staff Recognition Ceremony** (presented by Emily Mayfield)

Not funded by district. Expensive but important to show staff support/for staff retention.

Always looking for volunteers. Also appreciate help promoting donations.

Held Wednesday of teacher appreciation week. This year it will be at Willow on Grand.

SRC is a party held for all district staff. They celebrate service milestones and retirement. Staff lines either side of red carpet and honorees walk down the red carpet. Dr. Adams and student school board reps will speak briefly. Milestone gifts given to honorees, as well as a ribbon to wear during the school day for student/peer recognition.

**Southwoods CTE/Career Pathways:** Shane Scott, director of Secondary Curriculum

Many students/parents have tunnel vision toward four-year college and focus on meeting college admissions requirements. Shane tries to find ways to present them with more paths for job prep/work experience while in high school. Locating CTE building at Southwoods helps kids start exploring career prep options in 9th grade. Kids at Valley will also be able to take classes there.

There are significant local needs for welders and CNAs so these are two paths the school has focused on opportunities. Also starting electrician and accounting apprenticeships. Shane is always seeking local business partnerships to provide internship opportunities for students. He has more students interested in the opportunities than businesses providing them.

Cally says in her line of work she sees health care organizations prefer to hire RNs with a CNA background, so students interested in becoming RNs should know that there's value for them in pursuing the CNA program.

Shane met with all 7-12 grade teachers to get them thinking about if they connect coursework to careers and how they could start to do so.

When planning CTE building, Shane asked local businesses in relevant industries what technologies and skills their workers need to be trained in to ensure that the coursework and equipment are relevant.

Shane is happy to speak to parent groups or any other groups of district parents about CTE, apprenticeships, or other topics related to secondary coursework.

May 21, Southwoods CTE ribbon cutting ceremony at 4:30, in conjunction with WDM Chamber and City of WDM.

Lila asked for feedback on school board representation for next school year, whether there is a preference for one board member to attend all meetings or a rotation of board members. Alicia suggested the board choose one primary representative and when that member has a conflict, they seek another board member to come in their place.

Adjourned 1:45

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 11:30-1:00.