

Monday, October 17, 2022

DPC Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

In attendance: Karen Shapiro, Liz Luyendyk, Corinne Dyksen, Katie Cavanaugh, Dean Bolton, Joy Magyar, Kristin Arnette, Jessica Savage, Jane Manfredi, Jessie Gillard, Niki Robinson, Stacy Smith

Superintendent's Report

District hired SEC, Jason Russell for security analysis, spending time at schools,

- Identified a few discrepancies
- School email monitoring for key words
- Hardening of systems in buildings

Football team won last week, Thursday is Senior Night

Marching Band "Pack the Stadium," and it was packed! Great media coverage, too.

Board and Administration are already negotiating calendar for next year to avoid delays

- first meeting Nov 14 or 15
- forecasting away from early release
- Trying to establish better relationships through restorative practices with BoE and a mediator - Rick Schaffer from MSU to help restore relationships
- Biggest issue with calendar was disagreement with work days, student instructional days, religious holidays
- Trying to value all employee groups
- Question:
 - Does anyone represent hourly workers?
 - 4 unions - custodial food service, transportation, teachers, and administration
 - Some hourly workers are represented, and John feels responsibility to champion all the hourly workers
 - Listening tour last year, was insightful, especially in community ed who are tired: led to a change, and they typically do a "me too" retention portions, except for this year which benefitted hourly workers more
- So far restorative work will be between two bargaining unions
- Compensation and benefits are important, but also a sense of feeling valued
 - Putting together a wellness committee to boost intangibles like culture and relationships
 - Board added significant staffing to buildings, but also comes from fund where raises come from, so it's a give and take trying to relieve burdens while also raising pay - look at other districts
 - What else makes teachers feel valued?

Bond meetings have wrapped up, please let him know of any questions or comments

- Sent out letters individualized by school and a sending a flyer to parents

Received nice emails about Jewish High Holy days, sharing with the Board

Still looking for lunch aides, para-pros, and custodial maintenance workers

QUESTIONS

Biggest issue against Bond is that the buildings are falling apart and leaking and very small, community members may not know the extent of the district's infrastructure needs

- example of fixes that amount to duct tape
- parents haven't been in the schools, a real disconnect between what we have and what we're dealing with
- pictures of hallways with garbage cans catching leaks
- historically, 18-20% will vote no
- expected:** trying to be transparent...says this because if the bond passes, we will pay 275M...and take out that loan. If property values increase, it will be fine. If property values drop, there will need to be an increase in mils to pay back the initial loan

Appreciate Jewish holidays off, appreciate recognition of Diwali and Ramadan.

BOE Report - Dean Bolton

Tonight's meeting

- Joined by student reps
- Start with closed session to discuss security report, will then be made public
- Presentation on assessments that were done recently
- Presentation in school funding - refresher on how schools are funded and how the bond will lift up the schools
- Will approve the audit - was clean, will discuss - finances can sink a district - so lucky to have Liz Lentz
- Considering a resolution - opposing "Let MI kids Learn" officially
 - would allow public funds to go to private schools, has split into two bills, but could possibly be worked in
 - school admins oppose it, school board association opposes it, money would go away from our children

Thank you for support over the years, and thank you for the candidate forum.

Banquet is on November 17, if you've never been, its extraordinary! Very rewarding.

Zoom will continue for BOE meetings.

Building Reports

High school

- Insurance has been purchased, November 17, 19, 25 conferences
- Academic learning center returning to school for 2:45-3:45 by teachers
- October end of the quarter
- Won a football game! Thanks to the coaches.

QUESTION

What do we charge for youth football?

- OSC is also charged to use the fields, same when lacrosse was not part of Okemos
- Okemos youth football did not want to be part of Okemos, they are for-profit and want to pay more than we pay for Coaches.
- We need to have conversations to unify the Okemos youth football approach
- Confusing too, is that the independent clubs were using the school's logo, and they no longer are allowed to - it avoids confusion
- they can be brought into Okemos like lacrosse and benefit, but they must agree to it

Parent perspective: better recruiting through joining the district, i.e. vetting of coaches, having recourse, etc. Benefit to getting parent input? Could benefit school spirit, a good discussion going forward

Chippewa

- Conferences this week
- Starting hw club - Action club supports that
- Basketball 19th, tryouts 25th
- Planning November 4, walk/run event
 - walk around Briarwood and walk back to Chippewa. In the past they got a popsicle...this time donuts and cider (donuts from Barkham - \$1/donut, cider donations from parents), parent volunteers will watch where they walk
 - encouraging kids to bring own water instead of providing water
 - t-shirts - Chippewa Wolves - can be purchased

Kinawa

- Conferences this week,
- Keep Kinawa Moving on the 7th, was chilly
- Safe routes to school survey went out, with the grant possibility
- Band concerts are happening in November

Cornell

- PTO meeting coming up, also on zoom
- Luncheon for teacher/staff
- Pic retake on 26th this month

- Halloween parade
- Benchmark completed
- Wolf Pack Run - best sound we've ever had! Kids got a free t-shirt - fab customs helped with design and price point
- Run went well, but we didn't reach our goal with other grants and fundraising
- Themes from Cornell - is new building really at Cornell??? YES

OPM

- Make it sweet bakehouse to support OPM October 19th
- Oct 28 fall fiesta at Barkham, pizza served at 5-6
- State journal to advertise for positions -indeed, universities,

Bennet Woods

- Bike and roll - ride your bike or skate or walk to school

Hiawatha

- Teacher luncheon, conferences, Halloween parade
- Questions: is there a district wide grant writer? Former federal agent found grant options, who writes them? Security Steve Stierly
 - -PTO fund the walkie talkies, asked questions, last funded in 2019
- Sensory hallway
- Cautiously hawk walk \$20k
- Difference of opinion on what we do, science night and international night are sticking points, board is mostly 1st grade moms, no frame of reference, question about the past vs. going forward - FUN but also making money for the school
- Ongoing fundraisers - shirts, how do we get them?
 - is there a way for Fab Cust to sell shirts
- District wide fundraiser - soap - creating a bar of soap for us. Shopping night, 15% goes back to them
- Start a Wishlist - teachers then talk to parents about terms within the school
- Events vs. fundraisers: 7th grade goes to camp, everyone got a big zoo lesson in 3rd grade (Stacy Bailey question)
- School improvement team, goal is to all be wolves by next year Tempe Brown is working on a design for a mascot
- Can parent groups ask Gabe to expand his selection? Can also do a bookmark...kickbacks will go to individual buildings
- Ask about 1 extra item for sale in addition to shirts and sweatshirts
- Reach out to playmakers and t-shirt goods to house the goods?? Ask Joanna to contact them
- Still a struggle with a new mascot, can we get Dr. Slee out to help with them?

School start time discussion

Survey in **November** in concern to start time changes - will have an educational piece to inform parents on the trade-offs

Will we push everyone back 45 minutes, or do we flip flop and have younger kids out earlier in the dark and home before older kids.

115k/bus, and can't even find current bus drivers

Highschool goes later, kids have fewer hours to work, career center, academic time missed for sports

It's not clean, but we should consider it and see

If we always only had 1 run, we could have pushed the start times back already

Give kids a choice to have later classes so they can have later sleeping times

0 hour went away because of budget cuts

8:30am start is what research suggests, 45 min shift, but will it solve the problem or just push it back

180 days, 1098 hours of instructional hours, counted to the minute (not lunch, not passing time)

A little cushion in timing is built in, but not too much

Add in a question about homework

Would be helpful to discuss on a statewide level

Safety at Chippewa

Marna Wilson - township trustee - looked into with MT Police

State considers up to 5th grade needs crossing guards, AAA says. Would patrol more on the road, but they're short-staffed, too. We need to do it ourselves.

Busses need the right-of-way, need to let everyone know

Speakers this year

Suggestions:

- Lara Slee - updates, politics, post-election
- Library staff - politics concerns with books, Cindy Webster (Kinawa, Chippewa)
- Follow-up on Music program - to learn about post-covid
- Tempe Brown - discussion about mascot
- Jason Russell come talk to the group
- Social and emotional learning and counseling - E3 grant - PBIS
- SPED, literacy, Orton Gillingham training, and Maybe gifted and talented
- Technology - Tom Isom
- Gap - studies classes have newer teachers, and maybe they should have some experience with bringing the students up
- Dr. Kemsley, new High school principal, Lara Slee, Stacy Bailey
AP courses and gate-keeping issues

Elementary help and tutoring?? They have a plan, looking at Fall data to target kids. Chippewa thinking about doing it virtually. K-12 approach to teachers and para tutoring options for the kids who are showing a need.

Usually June graduation, now May 21st so closer to the last day of classes.