PRC Meeting Minutes 1/24/25

- **Dr. Cooke Update:**
  - Science and social studies standards are updated (increase in covered standards for 4th and 5th grade for 2025-2026 school year (hand out to show this)
    - Teaming model creates challenges to keep minutes even as social studies will be with language arts (priority on LA), and math and science (incorporate science standards into STEAM)
    - Add more standards (NGSS model with 5 E model which takes more time too)
  - **Redistricting:**
    - No plans to change the lines
    - Map is online
    - 2 pre-k classes at each school (benefit is they continue at school they start at)
    - Enrollment report (more families move into school when children are school age)
    - Laura asked for a pro-active policy
      - Dr. Cooke said:
        - If we are looking to redistrict we are at that space issue
        - Board can wave a policy if we had one because if we were at the point of considering redistricting then we would have a space issue and it would create a false sense of security to have a policy that could then be waved by the board on a ⅘ vote
        - Would look at every other situation before redistricting
        - Perhaps Look at incoming kindergarten first- if you want your child in school to continue in your current school- you can but incoming kindergartener would have to go to school in new redistricting line
        - Sarah brought up if there was a decision to redistrict who would make that – Dr. Cooke said BOE
        - Report we have said enrollment will continue to grow then the bigger areas of enrollment will be in Polson and Hand so don't anticipate an issue
  - **1/23 meeting last night: 4th graders**
    - Dr. Cooke and Gail were not there on purpose (decision not made lightly)
    - Liz brought up feedback that some (3) felt that people felt decision was more about teachers
      - Maureen said no it was more about balance with schools and teacher positions (FTE vs. .8 etc). trying to make it even.
      - Dr. Cooke said: contracts that have to be followed
        - With teaming model (4-5 teachers have to have lower class sizes and less prep)? Oblige contracts
        - Response from Maureen and Liz was that the message last night was that some people perceived that the model change was squeezing 4th and 5th graders into a K-3 model for convenience. Dr. Cooke said Both schedules altered- not about convenience.
        - 2 years ago Brown was a focus group. Now in the last 2 years it's a school of distinction, parents wanted more core (science and social studies). A lot

to go into. Our related arts classes were smaller than K classes- wanted smaller K classes
        - With the 2 K-5 schools Vertical connection works better with PD, lateral connection not as much (can look to increase that- for more chances for kids to interact and curriculum alignment)
    - **Interaction with two K-5 schools moving forward**
        - Partner with Beach and Rec and other areas to help with that
        - Sports allows for that
        - Principals are talking
        - PRC would love to see purposeful interactions with grade levels across the district to be built into the curriculum.
            - Dr. Cooke said there are some challenges to that but have seen it work well in our district
            - If PD for teachers could allow for opportunities for grade level teachers to meet it could provide time for teachers to develop these meaningful interactions into their curriculum. Especially in 4th and 5th grade where teachers are already used to working together
            - PRC suggestions:
                - Field Day together
                - Field trips together (½ 4th grade from Brown go with ½ 4th grade from Neck River for example)
                - Assemblies together
                - Pen pals with sister classes b/w Brown and Neck River in the same grade
- **Science question Maureen: question for 4th grade**
    - How is science being taught? Make sure not emphasis on video
    - What will they do with extra time
    - Laura asked-Professional development for teachers to understand how to teach NGSS (5 E model to help teachers understand how to teach these standards)- Dr Cooke said no science coaches but math coaches may help, there will be support
    - Curriculum committee on BOE – should people go to that?
        - Agenda comes out Friday before
        - Contact Gail
- **Hand accredited passed- next 10 years**
- **Budget:**
    - Increase 2.46% (not significant to adding Spanish teacher back in), Hand will be paid off this year, lower health insurance increases, year 4 of transportation contract (2.5%- other towns are 4-5%), if we had added we'd be at 4-5% with things that don't positively impact students, but fear of next year with what increase will be with these things.
        - Will still have 3 tiers of bussing even going down to 4 schools
- **Sidewalks:**
    - Hopefully gets passed at BOS on 1/27
    - Wetlands but perhaps path as well
- **Minutes**
- **School Updates**

- **Ryerson**
  - PTO provided a December Holiday Lunch to all staff catered by Grand Pizza
  - We had a successful, fun December Holiday School store where students were able to shop for
  - family members
  - We participated in the Madison Police Department Toy Drive and donated many toys to local
  - families in need
  - We hosted a Family Fun Day at the Bridgeport Islanders Hockey game on 1/5
  - Winter Workshop with Parent Volunteer teachers are in progress now
    - o Providing extracurricular classes to 140 students

  - Upcoming Events
    - General PTO meeting on 1/27 with sleep specialist Heather Cartier:
      - "Children and the power of Sleep"
    - We are collaborating with Art Matters to have a Caregiver and Me art class on 2/2
    - We are hosting a parent's social night at Comomango in February
    - Excited for a Family Fun afternoon at IT Adventure Ropes afternoon with Brown in February
    - A parent led workshop with Junior Achievement will be in March
    - The Ryerson Variety Show is planned for March 21st at DHHS
- **Jeffrey**
  - First of all we wanted to let you know about a bake sale we will be running to raise money to purchase LEGO sets for Yale Children's Hospital Child Life Toy Closet on Tuesday 2/11 from 3:25-5:30pm. This idea came from a 2nd grade Jeffrey student who had the vision for this fundraiser after learning about his own Leukemia diagnosis. We would love it if you could please advertise to your communities so we can support Henry while doing good for others! Please see the flyer below (and click to watch a video from Henry!) Thank you in advance!!
  - December Update:
    - Holiday shop
    - Kids night out
    - Ran Yankee Fundraiser
    - Flower Power Fundraiser
    - Minted fundraiser (all year) but did well near holiday time
    - Amato's Sauce Fundraiser
  - January Update:
    - Bridgeport Islanders Fundraiser
    - Mindfulness Event with author Emma Seppala 1/10 – will lead meditation for adults and discuss her new book in library while kids do mindfulness activities and make a stuffed animal with hot cocoa in cafe
    - Shoreline Diner fundraiser (day to eat there and got 30% back to Jeffrey)
    - IT fundraiser

        - BINGO 1/24 at Polson (free family night) 5:30-7:00pm (with Hornet's Nest)
        - Workshop Sign up for Session 3 1/24
        - Better Rhodes coupon code
    - Upcoming:
        - Selling tickets for Parents' Night Out 2/21 at Madison Beach Hotel (Fire and Ice)/ getting sponsors for event
        - Henry Bake Sale (during cool to care week)
        - Assembly Boogie Chillun 2/7
        - 100 day celebrations ⅔
        - and more!!
- **Brown**
    - December
        - Holiday shop on December 13th was a success
        - Hot Cocoa and Holiday Treats bar for staff appreciation on December 19th
        - Pep rally – Free throw contest with Mr. Henderson/Cubby
        - Closed Spirit Wear shop until January
    - January
        - General meeting in January – Q&A with Mr. Henderson about the model changes
        - Stocked staff lounge coffee station
        - Started tax prep
        - Working with teachers to provide funds for school-wide assembly and 4th grade activity
        - Looking Ahead
    - February
        - 100 Days Celebration – Card my Yard split with Ryerson
        - Family Bingo 2/12
        - Sign ups for Variety Show (4/4)
        - Winter Workshops – 5 week sessions start after break
        - IT fundraiser with Ryerson on 2/26
        - Spring (Easter) Munsons Chocolate Fundraiser starts
    - Currently planning: April talent show, March Parent Mixer, May Teacher Appreciation, June Year End Celebrations
- **Polson**
    - December-Successful book fair in December!
    - 1/13 Dr. Rydell Harrison - grade level assemblies on acceptance and inclusion. Specific focus on “courage” and empowering students to speak up when they see something that doesn’t look or feel right. Additional session with IMPACT club
    - 1/15 Speak Up - assembly for grade 8
    - 1/15 8th grade/student meeting at DHHS regarding course selection
    - 1/24 Cheeseburgers, Chainsaws, and Rock and Roll - school-wide interactive assembly. Focus on motivating students to reach their highest potential. Balance of seriousness and comedy - learn from struggles, failures and lessons along the way.
    - 1/24 Pajama Day - donations to CT Children’s Hospital

- 1/28 and 1/29 Parent conferences are scheduled for January 28 (in-person) & 29 (virtual). Contact RA teachers individually.
- 2/9-2/15 Kindness Week with Announcements, Chalk the Walk, Appreciation Station,
- 2/8 at 10:00 am—Kindness Parade, Polson School students will gather at the library to sing songs of peace and kindness; then walk through town at 10:30 a.m. carrying a kindness chain with kindness affirmations. Last year's chain was 75 feet long!
- 2/3 Galush Assembly - Interactive music performance from voice to music
- 2/14 Breakfast with a book
- **Upcoming theater opportunities:**

Talent Show

We are thrilled to announce Polson's Talent Show, organized and run by our talented students! This is an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their unique skills and creativity in front of their peers and teachers.

Here are the key dates to remember:

- **Auditions**: January 22, after school until 3:30 pm
- **Dress Rehearsal**: February 19, after school
- **Show Date**: February 21, during school hours.

Hands on Stage - Spring Musical Auditions

Ready to step into the spotlight? The Spring Musical "Little Shop of Horrors" is your chance to **sing, dance, act, create and shine** like never before! Whether you are a seasoned performer or trying theatre for the first time, there's a place for YOU on (or back) stage!

Audition Info:
When: January 27, 2025
Where: DHHS Stage
What to Bring: Your enthusiasm and a smile!

Rehearsals will be on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday evenings at 6 pm. You will not need to attend more than one rehearsal a week with the exception of tech weeks (4/7 - 4/11 and 4/21 - 4/23). **PERFORMANCES will be April 24 - 26, 2025**

Volunteers are also getting ready to plan teacher appreciation week surprises (5/5-9), the 8th grad dance (6/6).

- **Hand**