

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Citizen Advisory Committee

Attendees

School Board

John Gesiskie
Melanie Zipp
Matt Walters
Diane Serfass (Alt)

Polk (3)
Antionette Gravel
Frank Saffioti
Kristen Rudelitch
Jolene Pioli (Alt)

Taisha Garcia
Amanda Pagano
Alison Fennell
Jeremy Livingston

Ross (2)

Sandra Perry
Jennifer Rufo
Marsha Overpeck (Alt)

Eldred (2)
Timothy Hatcher
MariClaire Hosking

Admin
Sabrina
Sarah
Tim
John

Chestnuthill (5)
Nicole Serrano
Lindsey Miller

Subject - Real World Skills

- An administrator from each of the schools provided an overview of some of the schools offerings and how they related to real world skills
 - Elementary School Information Shared
 - Shared information about the social and emotional learning (SEL) Lab. The students meet with the guidance counselor who provides them with a lesson on a skill such as sharing, tattling versus reporting, whole body listening, etc. The teachers in the classroom are also involved in this learning so that during this class the vocabulary utilized during the SEL lesson can be reinforced by the teacher. The classroom is then broken into stations where the students role play scenarios about the lesson and afterwards during regular instructions the teachers can help reinforce by reminding students of what they learned, utilizing the same vocabulary so everyone is on the same page.
- Group discussion / questions
 - There was a good discussion around whether the parents should be the only ones responsible for teaching their children these topics and if we as a district were setting clear enough expectations with parents around the requirements for incoming kindergarten students and then holding parents accountable for their

child's behavior. One of the concerns around this was that teachers are spending instructional time teaching children behaviors that should be taught at home. The counter to this line of thought was that children can be taught these things at home however, when they are in a classroom environment it is very different and the education in the right setting is important and that the parents need the help of the teachers in working on those behaviors.

- There was a short discussion around whether focusing was an issue with the younger students and how teachers are combatting that. Sabrina indicated that this is something where they are seeing a shift in focus related issues since covid and they build small breaks into their sessions to try to combat the issue.

○ Intermediate School Information Shared

- PVI just started an SEL lab with a breakout room with the counseling team in the school. They work on behaviors such as teamwork, empathy, and disagreeing by working on things like solving real life puzzles together. Additionally they work through real world skills like speaking with people, leading, counting, saving, natural resources by doing activities such as having the kids be tour guides on meet the family night, participating in bear squad, saving their bear bucks for prizes, etc. Related to the curriculum, the intermediate school provided an overview of ELA, Math, Arts, and how the SEL component and real world behaviors and skills are woven into the educational curriculum so that is not completely dependent on the SEL lab.

○ Group Discussion / Questions

- There was a question and discussion around whether or not we are measuring the performance of the social emotional learning lab and this led directly into the middle schools discussion.

○ Middle School Information Shared

- At the middle school they are using second step to kind of measure SEL performance. Not everyone participates in SEL labs however, if there is a teacher recommendation for specific skills or something a particular student is struggling with the students would use second step which would enable them to work on the target behaviors. In middle school these tend to be items like soft skills, productive struggle, self advocacy, and teaching kids how to cope with things that are a struggle and overcoming obstacles (developing their grit muscle). The middle schools doesn't have the specific SEL lab but the students

are starting to find their own place through activities that begin to be offered at the MS level such as athletics and clubs.

- Additionally in the middle school they are offering real world skills around PE, Health, Music, Industrial technology, computer technology. etc. They are introducing them to MCTI options in the 8th grade / 9th grade, but giving them a taste of these programs through electives.

○ High School Information Shared

- The high school shared information about the pathways to graduate, MCTI and technical trades, hands on learning classes such as Biology labs, PE, industrial classes, first aide, CPR, digital photography, graphic design, video production.

○ Discussion / Questions

- The middle school and high school comments and questions are combined because during the meeting they ran together a bit. There was a discussion around MCTI and what the school is doing to remove the stigma associated with technical schools.
 - We talked about the field trips in 8th and 9th grade, the graduation pathways, the growth of the population of students taking this path to have a career at the end of high school and how MCTI is funded and operates from a district perspective (the proportion of students from each area).
- There was a discussion around the teaching of script and check writing and it was confirmed we are teaching script in 2nd and 3rd grades and they also just started to teach typing in the 2nd grade, but we aren't requiring students to hand in the homework in cursive, but we are teaching them to read and write it.
- There was a discussion or recommendation around implementing something around the appropriate use of AI and it is somewhat covered through a program that is implemented to ensure we aren't copying or submitting work that was previously submitted by someone else.

○ Community questions

- There was a question around how the MS and HS implement SEL into their academics

- There was an ask to provide more visibility to the detailed curriculum and how it ties into real world learning for example, for parents, section 1 of this class is covering these topics over the next 3 weeks and in addition to the content the student will need to work in a group to navigate teamwork and conflict.
- There was a brief discussion around cyber school and how we get kids back to brick and mortar and how we get this information and the things we are working on out to these parents.

At the conclusion there was a discussion around meeting timing due to Jun attendance and we decided collectively that it made more sense to skip a July meeting and focus on a meeting in August prior to school start.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 6:30 - 7:30PM

Next Topic: School Safety and bullying