

School Community Network Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19th, 2017

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Introductions

Stephanie Horak re-elected President by those in attendance.

Stephanie Horak requested a volunteer to act as Secretary this school year. Stephanie VandeBerg volunteered.

Open Forum with Superintendent Lisa Remy.

- Dr. Remy welcomed the committee and presented a power point about the goals for the 2017/2018 school year.
- 4 main goals:
 1. Student achievement – all students should achieve at high levels, on assessments.
 2. Strategic Action Plan – We are on the 4th year of a 5-7 year plan. This includes the 1-1 initiative, equity work and grading practices.
 3. Equity – the Deep Equity Framework has begun. One day of training was held in July, two more days are planned for November. There will be student training (grades 9-12) as well for a total of 3 days – the first in October, additional in January and April.
 4. Student Enrollment – There was a completed marketing survey last year. The data from that was presented to the Board in June. Next steps are currently being discussed.
- The committee reviewed the Board statement, which states that students will possess the essential skills and integrity to communicate, collaborate, and solve problems as confident citizens. Also reviewed the District Values.
- Dr. Remy discussed the Equity goal, which was made in May 2017 and states that no matter who a student is, they should have access to all opportunities in the WDMCS district.
- Draft of an implementation plan has been made and will continue to be discussed.
- Facilities update – Currently the board is taking a step back and is making the process more inclusive. They are seeking community input and taking part in focus groups. Board member Melinda Dunnwald stated that the board has not forgotten the space issues; it is still a work in progress.
- Dr. Remy opened the floor to questions. Stephanie Horak asked what parent committees and schools can do to give all students an opportunity to participate in athletic programs? Dr. Remy stated that they are looking at what policies currently block students from participating and are working on how to change those policies to be more inclusive. Beth Beulow noted that it's important to have equal access, not necessarily equal numbers. Dr. Remy added that at first the focus was race. As the work progressed, they decided to include gender and gender identity as well.

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Stephanie introduced Jake West, Cub Scout Master for Troop 118 to the committee.

- Scouting is about good citizenship, character development, sportsmanship, community work, respecting our flag and country.
- Boys can join a troop in 1st grade (Tigers) and continue in 2nd (Wolves) and 3rd (Bears) and more. They attend Den meetings twice a month and Pack meetings once a month.
- The troop members can earn badges in subjects like pocket knife safety, planning camping trips, fellowship, hiking, history of our country. Jake's troop has "adopted" a neighborhood street and picks up litter on that street.
- Dues are \$2/month, or \$24/year. Scholarships are available.
- The Scouts would love to keep communication open with local schools and the community. The Scouts hold registration each year in local schools. They can have a flag raising ceremony at the school as well.

Carol Seid presented feedback from secretaries regarding registration payment change impact.

- All responses have been positive. Secretaries said that there was less traffic and people waiting in lines, it was a quiet process, it was easier to focus on parents questions, it didn't change the process much, and was smooth overall. The only uncertainty was regarding how things would proceed with payments after registration.
- Valley PTO President Jana stated that they saw less PTO donations and registrations this year and would like to find ways to reach out to families that did not fill out paperwork or visit the PTO table at registration.
- Feedback from SCN committee is that there needs to be better communication regarding when to pay. The timing seems poor – with back to school costs in August, plus registration fees; it could have kept parents from paying for extras like PTO donations, yearbooks, etc.

Stephanie welcomed Michelle Lettington and Mike Sherman to give Iowa Assessment/NTN Data.

- Iowa Assessments will still take place during the 2017/2018 school year. The following year may be a new assessment. Teachers are using data from the assessments and implementing it into their classrooms.
- Annual improvement goals were discussed. Goals for all students were not met for the 2016/2017 school year. Because of the assessment date changing from Fall (2015) to Spring (2017) students had to show 1 2/3 years of growth in order to show growth in groups.
- Attendance – absences decreased from 13.74% to 12.74%. The goal is to decrease the number of students missing more than 15 days.

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- Current Screening Assessments:
 1. aMath – K-6
 2. early Reading – K-1
 3. aReading – K-6
 4. CBMr – 2-6
 5. SRI – 7-9

- Screening Assessments help alert teachers to at risk students. The information follows students throughout their school career.

- The goal is to increase proficiency, continue to study and implement practices proven to improve student achievement.

- New Tech Data – the committee reviewed a packet containing New Tech data. More data is needed; it will take 3-5 years to see if the program is working.

- No Child Left Behind is gone and was replaced with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

New Ideas From Schools (Formerly Good News)

- A few schools shared that some classrooms are experimenting with “flexible seating.”
- Some schools discussed Homecoming week and participated in the parade activities.
- WDM Foundation – New website! www.wdmcsfoundation.org. There will be an affiliate meeting on September 30th.
- Valley Southwoods is starting a New tech Parent Advisory Group to get feedback from parents. They are also looking for parents to join a site improvement team.
- Clive Learning Academy PTO has a new PTO website. www.clivepto.org.
- Community Education shared that an adult ELL teacher was added half-time. Classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.