

WDMCS School Community Network (SCN)

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018

Next meeting: April 17, 2018, 9:15 A.M., Community Room at West Des Moines Library

1. Open Forum with Dr. Remy - WDMSC Superintendent

Facilities Update

The Facilities plan was approved in January. Next step: Amy Yurko with BrainSpaces and Shive Hattery are doing a fit analysis. Schedule of updates should be available in June. Teacher focus group and Facilities committee will meet on Friday, March 23rd. Information and updates will be available on the West Des Moines Community School website. A micro website will be dedicated to the facilities plan. People will have an opportunity to subscribe to updates to tailor their preference on the frequency of updates. April and May there will be the opportunity for the community to give feedback on the facilities plan.

Email Notifications Survey

Prior to Spring break, there was a survey about the number of communications that you receive from the district. If you haven't filled it out, please take the time to do so.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmg6qMtNhQqiNRGvR2f-wOsK0idMpwCFKtODOHQJxoy1ewQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Smartphone App

West Des Moines Community Schools will be rolling out a smartphone app. More information to come in the April SCN meeting.

Last Day of School and Secured Entrance Construction Update

The last day of school is scheduled for Friday, June 1st as long as there are no more snow days. If we have one more snow day, we will have to make up all three snow days missed.

Board approved the secured entrance construction for all eight schools. Construction is scheduled to begin June 4th and be completed by the start of school in August. Maps of each of the buildings is available in the board meeting materials.

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=150030&MID=3197>

Will look into secondary buildings in the future.

Question: Beyond the security system is there anything being done about the soft security? Make children feel more secure about approaching adults. Build more connections. Student can alert adults and adults will alert administration. Build positive relationships.

Online Registration

Looking at online registration. Not for upcoming year. Calendar for this year is being set. Asked if online registration would include PTO/PTA and other organization registration also.

Behavior Intervention Specialist

By fall, looking to have 8 total behavior intervention specialist for the West Des Moines Community school district. These would be certified individuals. Currently have 1 at Valley High School and 3 non-certified individuals.

2. Updates by Laine Mendenhall-Buck – Director of School/Community Relations

Golf in the Halls

Mini golf fundraiser that was to be held at Valley High School has been moved to next year. Pre-registration funds could go to a designated school group and the remaining funds would go to teacher grant program in connection with West Des Moines Community School Foundation.

Additional Updates

Next two SCN meetings will be held at the West Des Moines Library in the Community Room.

Valley High School is rolling out a hall of honor. Honorees have been selected. SCN member and West Des Moines Community School Foundation Member, Cindy Todd has received one of the honors.

3. ParentQuest presentation by Shahna Janssen – Director of Community Education

Watched a YouTube video giving an overview of ParentQuest. You can access the video in the following location. <https://www.wdmcs.org/2018/02/wdmcs-community-education-launches-parentquest/>

ParentQuest is a WDMCS Community Education program. It partners with parents and other caring adults as they navigate each child's unique path to success in school and life. ParentQuest was developed to support parents and other caring adults by providing free learning opportunities that positively impact children's success in school and life. Each child's path to success is unique and ParentQuest will offer relevant opportunities to help parents along the way.

Visit bit.ly/wdmcs-parentquest for more information.

4. Kids First Iowa Presentation by Layne Huey, Molly McPartland and Cole Mayer

[List of attendees]

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Giving children a voice in divorce, custody and other conflicts. Kids First gives children a voice in divorce, custody, and other conflicts by providing focused legal representation and services for kids. The overall goals for Kids First are to create stability for children, lessen the effect of conflict on kids, connect families to support systems and needed resources, and make children's voices heard.

At the center of Kids First's work is a focus on conflict-resolution and changing patterns of behavior to create more positive relationships for kids.

Kids First dedicated attorneys provide free and low-cost representation to children in high-conflict divorce and custody cases. Kids First is a nonprofit organization.

Kids First works with school age kids 6 -17 years old. Organization started in Cedar Rapids in 2005 and has now expanded to the Des Moines Area in October 2017.

At Kids First, the overall goals are to:

1. Reduce parental conflict,
2. Strengthen family relationships,
3. Connect parents and kids with needed resources, and
4. Make children's voices heard.

For more information visit their website at www.kidsfirstiowa.org

5. New ideas from Schools

Due to short time remaining in the meeting, it was asked that only new ideas be discussed. Many members did not have anything to contribute.

Benefit for Joe Turner had a great turnout and raised money for Joe and his family.

Westridge – Starting their first running club and also first Funrun Fundraiser.

6. Future Topic Requests

None.

Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Kennedy