

WDMCS School Community Network (SCN)

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2018

Next meeting: November 20, 2018, 9:15 A.M., LRC – Fairmeadows room

1. Open Forum with Dr. Remy - WDMSC Superintendent

2018 – 2019 Calendar Feedback

Dr. Remy asked for feedback on the 2018 – 2019 School year calendar. She presented two options.

Option A

- School year starts on Friday, August 23rd which is the first day possible to start school per the state.
- School year ends on Friday, May 29th.
- Spring break is March 16 – 20 with Friday prior also no school for students.

This option has 2 professional days on Mondays in January.

Option B

- School year starts on Monday, August 26th which is the first day possible to start school per the state.
- School year ends on Friday, May 29th.
- Spring break is March 16 – 20 with Friday prior also no school for students.

This option has June 1st as a professional learning day for the staff.

Facilities Update

The board approved phase 1 of the Master Framework. The decision to split the master plan into phases for both approval and completion allows the district to move forward with critical projects.

In addition, these projects can be paid for with Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) funding. PPEL funds may be used to purchase educational technology, update computer systems as needed, and make safety improvements and building repairs and renovations.

Phase I Projects Overview - Prior to developing a master facilities plan, WDMCS determined in 2016 that Clive Learning Academy, Crestview School of Inquiry, and Western Hills Elementary each needed renovations to support space needs and building repairs. These schools were identified to need additional square foot whether the 6th grade stayed in the elementary schools or not.

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No additional phases will probably be brought to the board until we know if the 1 cent sales tax is brought back by the legislature.

No plans to add preschool to the two elementary without preschool or moving the 6th graders out of elementary at this time. A question was posed if the district had considered looking into wraparound preschool. Dr. Remy said they are discussing this at Hillside.

Go to the WDM Community school websites for more details. <https://masterplan.wdmcs.org/oct-8-2018-update/>

Mr. Villotti, Principal at Crestview is retiring at the end of the school year.

Plan to post position in December. Take name of replacement to the board in February. Need a special person for the at risk population at Crestview.

A question was asked of Dr. Remy about having Assistant Principals at the schools. Response was the size of the schools do not warrant it. Two schools (Jordan Creek and Farimeadows) currently share an assistant principal.

Dr. Remy was asked about feedback on the Behavioral interventionist. She indicated that she is hearing great things from the principals. The Behavioral interventionists are making sure that the plans are working correctly. It was felt by the group that the position was definitely needed. Students do not need to have a 504 plan to be impacted by the behavior interventionist. They work with the teachers to problem solve. Asked if they are keeping data about problem behaviors.

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

Updates on portrait of a graduate

A West Des Moines Community Schools graduate will possess the essential skills and integrity to communicate, collaborate, and solve problems as a confident citizen embracing our diverse and changing world.

Based on feedback from previous SCN session, they have softened the features of the face. It look more youthful and gender neutral. Global contributor changed to a globe, critical thinker changed to “?” from the maze and collaborator changed so profiles are facing one another.

3. Gun Safety Discussion by Julia Anderson – Co-lead of Moms Demand Action

Watched “Be Smart” presentation by Kay. Be Smart: A conversation about kids, guns, and safety

Every year, nearly 300 children age 17 and under gain access to a gun and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, and nearly 500 more die by suicide with a gun. Many of these deaths are entirely preventable with responsible gun storage. We know we can keep our kids safer by introducing these five easy steps to parenting and everyday life.

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American kids are 11 times more likely to die from gun violence than other kids in developing countries.

What can we do? Be SMART

S - Secure guns in homes and vehicles. Keep guns locked, unloaded and stored separately from ammunition.

M - Model responsible behavior

A - Ask about unsecured guns in other homes. Use technology to make this conversation easier. Send a text or email. Try to phrase the question so it is not confrontational.

R - Recognize the risks of teen suicide

T - Tell your peers to be SMART. Volunteer to lead a SMART presentation.

Sergeant Dan Wade with the West Des Moines Police Department talked about gun locks. Gun locks can be obtained for free from the West Des Moines Police Station. They are provided through Project child safe. No documentation required to get a gun lock and no records kept of who gets one. Also available in Urbandale.

Sergeant Wade also said the easiest way to protect your things in your car is to lock your car. Don't leave anything in your car that you are not willing to lose.

4. Demo Teacher Program/Other Teacher Resources by Gretchen Fackler

Demonstration teacher is a resource to other teachers. Teachers have 8 hours to work with demonstration teachers. Gretchen shared the "Seeing it in Action" video. You can go to the West Des Moines Community School's website to watch the video. <https://www.wdmcs.org/staff/demo-teachers/differentiated-instruction-reading-demonstration-teachers/>

If parents would like to see a demonstration lesson or visit a classroom, contact the building principal.

This program is not only for teachers that need to work on things. This is for teachers that want to learn.

Parent groups could have a demonstration teacher come talk at their parent meetings.

5. Lunch Account Money for Local Law Enforcement by Joe Libby

Bringing law enforcement officers into the buildings to have lunch with the students. Joe asked the parent groups to donate \$75 to start a lunch account for the officers. \$75 would enable 2 officers to visit 10 times. This would be street patrol officers – not the school resource officer. Accounts would be set up at each school.

Why offer school lunches to Police Officers?

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- Provide a stronger connection between school and community
- Builds relationships outside crisis
- Offers a sense of more security to school community
- Reinforces positive behaviors through relationships
- Better acclimated to school and safety protocols

.In the future, Joe would like to open this up to the Fire Department as well.

6. New ideas and Future Topic Requests

Cindy Todd with the West Des Moines Foundation talked about Golf in the Halls. Saturday, November 17th from 9 A.M to 3 P.M. Incentive for parent groups that get 10 groups to sign up for \$150 will receive \$300 from the Foundation.

Preschool Palooza will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Hillside Elementary School.

United date is on October 24th and they asked that you wear orange in support or “We choose kind” shirt.

Valley Southwoods has put out a directory for the first time in a number of years.

Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Kennedy