



Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent

Meeting Summary Notes: November 7, 2016

Meeting Summary Notes are intended to serve as the superintendent's reflection on the discussions that occur during advisory committee meetings. They are not intended to be exhaustive. Instead, they are intended to serve as a general record for our on-going efforts to assess our needs, determine our goals, map out our strategies, and evaluate our policies, procedures and programs. Participants should contact the superintendent if they observe any critical oversight or misinterpretation.

Participants present: Robert Tucker (AHS), Ginni Phillips (CMS), Mary Fant-Donnan (CMS), Schuyler Fury (SES), Jessica Bowyer (CES), Mary Jane Mutispaugh (Director of Instruction), Fred Vaughan (Director of Human Resources and Pupil Personnel), Lorie Bess (Administrative Assistant), and Eugene Kotulka (Superintendent).

1. Mr. Kotulka provided an update on the budget. He stated it appears the state budget is favorable at this time. Our budget currently has a deficit of \$41,277. He stated insurance rates are expected to increase 7.5%. He reported salary scales are being redeveloped and the proposed budget includes a 1% raise for all employees.
2. Mr. Kotulka discussed the recent illnesses at the schools. He noted the absences were back down at the middle school. He stated he understands the concerns of everyone but the situation is continually monitored. He stated the school division coordinates with the health department on these concerns and they have not recommended closing schools. He encouraged parents to keep their kids home if they are sick. A parent note is required for the student to have a verified absence, he explained. The state requires the parents be notified on the fifth unverified absence.
3. Ms. Mutispaugh provided an update on the One-to-One Initiative. She reported the first step was to update the network at AHS, which was done at the end of September. One teacher was tasked with preparing for and taking the SOL test on the Chromebook. 100% of students passed the test and students reported it was the most comfortable SOL test they had ever taken. Parents received training prior to the student getting their Chromebooks. Students can only send/receive emails from those within the school division. The network upgrade at CMS is finished and the plan is to deploy Chromebooks at the start of the next school year. Grades 6-8 will receive Chromebooks 1st semester, while Grade 5 will receive theirs during 2nd semester. She noted seniors use the Chromebooks for their portfolios.
4. Mr. Kotulka reported there is an Education First work group and they are excited about the future of education in the Highlands. The division is looking to create a New Tech program. He explained the goal of education is to teach students to think, not just how to pass a test. He noted he recently met with government officials and discussed internships for students at local businesses.
5. A participant invited everyone to a Candy Bar Bingo at Sharon Elementary on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. She noted the 4-H program starts on Friday and also the Kiwanis is having a community food drive on February 19 and a pancake breakfast on April 8.

6. A participant asked if there is a program similar to Talent Search that will offer assistance to student whose parents do have a 4-year degree. Ms. Mutispaugh replied CMS does have Academic and Career coaching in the 7th grade and Mr. Vaughan added there is a College Fair every year at DSLCC. Ms. Mutispaugh stated she would check into it.
7. A participant asked which grade do students begin learning keyboarding. Ms. Mutispaugh replied it currently beings in 8th grade but we are looking at beginning it in the 6th grade. Other participants encouraged considering starting in 4th or 5th grades.
8. A participant discussed block day versus periods at CMS. She noted middle school should be about exploration and that students lose their attention after 60 minutes.
9. A participant commended Falcon Time at CMS and stated it is a good way to make school fun.
10. A participant reported when her student tried to do research on her Chromebook and typed in the word "teen", it was blocked. Ms. Mutispaugh noted the concern and stated she would alert Jeff Alleman.

The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m. NEXT MEETING: March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

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