

PARENT UPDATE

A Summary of a Recent Meeting of the District-Wide Parent Committee

September 12, 2017

Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at 7 Rivers Community High School.

Attendance

Central High School: Trista Treglowne

LaCrossroads: Not represented

Logan High School: Brenda Leahy

Lincoln Middle School: Patrick Lockley

Logan Middle School: Kirsten Daykin

Longfellow Middle School: Not represented

LaCrosse Design Institute: Not represented

SOTA II: Kyle Backstrand

Coulee Montessori Elementary: Bennett Myers

Emerson: Jeremiah Galvan, Steve Woodward

Northside Elementary: Beth Crammond,

Gretchen Knudson-Stuhr

Hamilton: Not represented

Hintgen: Not represented

North Woods International: Heather Pintz

Southern Bluffs: Jamie DeBell, Jaclyn Osley (excused)

SOTA I: Diane Wilson

Spence: Suzie Pence

State Road: Tammy Wills

Summit: Not Represented

Members at Large: Not represented

BOE Liaison: Dawn Comeau

Tom Thompson (excused)

LEA Liaison: Tabatha Veum

Superintendent Randy Nelson

Executive Director of Business Services

Patty Sprang

Associate Superintendent/Instruction

Troy Harcey

La Crosse Public Education Foundation Executive

Director David Stoeffler

Student Showcase – Seven Rivers High School

Seven Rivers High School students explained that their school is project-based and community connected. There are a total of 41 students enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year. The students participate in creative problem solving and are provided a wide range of learning experiences. The students kicked off the new year with a trip to the Lanesboro-Eagle Bluff Environmental Center to create team building. This year the school has expanded elective opportunities, interim week, community-related showcases, and junior and senior capstone projects.

Introduction of 2017-2018 DWP Members

The committee welcomed and introduced 2017-2018 District Wide Parent members.

Review of By-Laws and Guide to Effective Meetings

Superintendent Nelson distributed copies of the By-Laws and the Guide to Effective Meetings. The committee reviewed the documents. Both the By-Laws and the Guide to Effective Meetings are available on the district's website at www.lacrosseschools.org It was suggested to review the Guide to Effective Meetings at a future meeting with those new members unable to make this meeting.

2017-2018 Election of Officers

- Chairperson – Trista Treglowne was elected as Chairperson for the 2017-2018 DWP Committee
- Vice Chairperson – Kyle Backstrand was elected as Vice Chairperson for the 2017-2018 DWP Committee
- Secretary – Suzie Pence was elected as Secretary for the 2017-2018 DWP Committee

2017 District Wide Parent Survey Results

Superintendent Randy Nelson and Chair Trista Treglowne presented the 2017 District Wide Parent survey results. The aggregate results were not available thus the survey will be presented for review in October.

Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN)

Superintendent Nelson presented information on the Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN). He explained that the network shows what impacts students and the district and provides options for getting involved, if you choose. It is a grassroots, nonpartisan coalition to support our public schools. The district has joined the network. The network is made

up of parents and PTO's and is part of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. More information can be found on their website at www.wisconsinnetwork.org

501C3 Reminders

Executive Director of Business Services Patty Sprang provided information to members regarding benefits, responsibilities and maintaining the tax exempt status for their PTO. She reminded the group that Form 990 is due by November 15. If you miss completing this form, the PTO will lose their tax-exempt status and it is a lengthy process to reinstate. She noted that the determination letter will have an EIN and suggested sending a copy to the Business Office for safe keeping.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

Executive Director David Stoeffler provided information on the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. He indicated that the Foundation has already provided over \$175,000 through grants to teachers in the district. He noted that anyone can apply for a grant as long as it supports the school. He encouraged PTO's to support grants by teachers as well as apply for grants. The deadline to apply for the first cycle of grants is October 27 and February 26 is the deadline for spring applications. The support-a-school.org is an online donation platform that is tax deductible and is another option for fundraisers. There is a small charge of 10% to use the platform but less than national options. He added that items purchased with this platform stay within the district.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent Nelson provided an update on the budget. He noted that the third Friday count and overall assessed property value (approximately \$4 billion) will contribute to the budget when it is released. Per pupil funding amount could change due to possible vouchers and other items funded by the state. Mr. Nelson explained that vouchers provide funding for students to attend a private school. He noted that approximately one million from the district goes to these vouchers. He added that qualifying for the program has, and will, continue to change in the coming years. He explained that more people will qualify because of a rise in the poverty level and include students that qualified even if already attending the private school. The district had a great start to the school year with new iPads and laptops issued to students.

Joys/Concerns

- North Woods International PTO hosted a fundraiser at the brat barn in August.
- Please contact Oktoberfest if you are interested in volunteering to serve or pick up trash. Volunteers can keep tips.
- A stop sign has been added at the uncontrolled intersection at Coulee Montessori.
- Associate Superintendent Troy Harcey thanked returning District Wide Parent members and welcomed new members. He suggested that the committee contemplate funding a speaker for future staff development.

Future Agenda Items

- Due to middle school parent/teacher conferences, the October agenda will be on October 17th at Logan High School, LMC.
- The November meeting may be moved to a different location to better view a documentary and have a possible panel. Questions may be formulated in preparation for Jeff Reiland's presentation at the December meeting.
- 2017 District Wide Parent survey results (October agenda)
- School Calendar (October agenda)
- Legislative Update (October agenda)
- Equity (October-May agendas)
- PTO Best Practices
- One-to-One – Superintendent Randy Nelson
- Lockdown Procedures/ALICE Training – Jason Showen
- Update on New Website – Nick Marcou
- Year-Round School Update
- AVID Update – David Stoeffler
- PTO Calendar/Fundraising Dates
- Special Education Supervisor Update
- Meet The Administration Night
- Help Our Students/Community (What do our kids need? Beds, chairs, etc). – Regina Siegel
- High School Future Centers
- Hamilton Year-Round School (teacher/parent perspectives)
- RTI - Early intervention
- Middle School iPad Programs
- iPad Support

- iTunesU (What platforms are we using?)
- Math Night?
- Teacher Evaluation
- Ways to reinstate training for parents to be able to help teachers with reading tests
- Budget updates; legislative updates; innovative programs, clubs, projects in district
- Dealing with bullying amongst friends
- Link to help parents learn how to help child (student) with homework – see more of what students are doing in schools, projects, etc.
- Early intervention (preschool and curriculum focus); Special Education (programs, referral process, etc.)
- Continued information on special clubs, projects, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Suzie Pence, recorder

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Logan High School, LMC