

PARENT UPDATE

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

January 9, 2018

Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Southern Bluffs Elementary, LMC.

Attendance

Central High School: Trista Treglowne

LaCrossroads: Not represented

Logan High School: Not represented

Lincoln Middle School: Laura Olson

Logan Middle School: Not represented

Longfellow Middle School: Jeff Murphy

LaCrosse Design Institute: Not represented

SOTA II: Not represented

Coulee Montessori Elementary/Adolescent:
Not represented

Emerson: Not represented

Northside Elementary: Beth Crammond,

Gretchen Knudson-Stuhr

Hamilton: Not represented

Hintgen: Not represented

North Woods International: Heather Pintz (excused);
Jennifer Schmitz (excused)

Southern Bluffs: Not represented

SOTA I: Diane Wilson

Spence: Not represented

State Road: Tammy Wills

Summit: Not represented

Members at Large: Not represented

BOE Liaison: Dawn Comeau

Tom Thompson (excused)

LEA Liaison: Not represented

Superintendent Randy Nelson

Executive Director of Business Services

Patty Sprang

Associate Superintendent/Instruction

Troy Harcey (excused)

Director of Secondary Education & Supervisor of
Science Stacey Everson

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

Executive Director David Stoeffler

Student Showcase – Southern Bluffs Elementary

Southern Bluffs Elementary fourth and fifth graders explained their use of technology through green screens, iMovie and the study of “The Birchbark House” by Louise Erdich.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

Executive Director of Business Services David Stoeffler communicated that the Grant Award Luncheon is January 22 and will honor over sixty recipients of more than \$80,000 in awards. La Crosse Public Education Foundation will again support and honor students on *Thank a Teacher Day* May 8. Fresh fruit and donuts will be delivered to area schools and the Foundation will be looking for volunteers to help with the event.

2018-2019 Budget

Superintendent Randy Nelson and Executive Director of Business Services Patty Sprang reported that the district is looking at a potential operating referendum on the April 2018 ballot. The district is currently in the third year of a five-year operating referendum. The April referendum will be for \$4.175 million per year and would be used towards smaller class size in K-3 grade (18 students per classroom); capital maintenance projects and technology. The committee questioned what the monies would be used for if the entryways are completed at each of the buildings. Superintendent Nelson responded that the monies will continue to cover other building physical needs; i.e., roofs, floors. Members also questioned how this would impact property taxes. Superintendent Nelson explained that the monies requested in the referendum is the same as in the past referendum and will not impact taxes directly. The amount, however, could change because of other factors (property values, enrollment, etc.) The group also questioned where monies come from for expansion of present buildings. Superintendent Nelson responded that monies from the district's savings is used for expansion of the present buildings.

Straight Forward: The Truth About Addiction

Committee members viewed the Wisconsin Eye documentary, *Straight Forward: The Truth About Addiction*. The documentary detailed addicts at the beginning of their opioid addiction; their rock bottoms; impacts on their families; risk factors; and recovery. It explained the risk factors involved including genetics; anxiety; depression; Bi-Polar disorder; chronic pain; adverse childhood events (verbal, physical, and sexual abuse); divorce/split households; witness abuse; family members in prison; family members suffering from mental health issues; suicide, etc. The district is hoping to show the documentary to all middle and high schools in La Crosse.

Superintendent Nelson requested feedback from the District Wide Parent Committee. The committee believed the documentary was age appropriate for middle school and may be a good item to incorporate into the health curriculum. Others were concerned that the documentary might trigger some risk factors for those students who have lived through traumatic events. And still others believed it may help students recognize some of the risk factors and encourage them to talk to someone.

It was suggested that the viewing groups be smaller so that discussions can take place and students feel comfortable to share. The district should provide resources to post the video (FaceBook, websites) and suggested having the parents and students watch it together at the schools rather than at a larger venue. It was also suggested holding a panel discussion at the end of the documentary. Members thought it would be a good idea to view the documentary at school first and then provide a community showing later in collaboration with the Heroin Task Force events this spring. Members were encouraged to share their thoughts about the documentary with their building PTO's.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent Randy Nelson explained that he will provide a legislative update at the February meeting.

Future Agenda Items

- Equity (October-May agendas)
- *Paper Tigers* Presentation
- Lockdown Procedures/ALICE Training
- PTO Best Practices
- One-to-One – Superintendent Randy Nelson
- Update on New Website – Nick Marcou
- Year-Round School Update
- AVID Update – David Stoeffler
- PTO Calendar/Fundraising Dates
- Special Education Supervisor Update
- 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
- 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.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, February 13, 2018, 7:00pm, Northside Elementary, Lunchroom