

PARENT UPDATE

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

December 17, 2019

Call to Order/Welcome

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

Attendance

Central High School: Not represented	State Road: Tammy Wills
LaCrossroads: Not represented	Summit: Not represented
Logan High School: Brenda Leahy	Members at Large: Trista Treglowne
Lincoln Middle School: Not represented	BOE Liaison: Laurie Cooper Stoll
Logan Middle School: Not represented	LEA Liaison: Not represented
Longfellow Middle School: Not represented	Superintendent:
LaCrosse Design Institute: Not represented	Randy Nelson
SOTA II: Kyle Backstrand	Executive Director of Business Services:
Coulee Montessori Elementary: Not represented	Patty Sprang
Coulee Montessori Adolescent: Not represented	Associate Superintendent/Instruction:
Emerson: Jeremiah Galván	Troy Harcey
Northside Elementary: Not represented	Director of Elementary Education:
Hamilton: Not represented	Shelley Shirel
Hintgen: Cassandra Torres	Director of Secondary Education:
North Woods International: Calison Weiss	Stacey Everson
Southern Bluffs: Alicia Place	La Crosse Public Education Foundation:
SOTA I: Not represented	David Stoeffler
Spence: Not represented	Visitors: Archie Barribeau

School Showcase

La Crosse Youth Climate Strike presented by Central High School seniors: Anna Durall, Lily Herling, Emma Ehlers, and Peyton Haug

- The students reviewed climate change and the impact Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future Movement had on them personally to create a La Crosse movement.
- <https://www.facebook.com/fridaysforfuture.lax/>
- Fridaysforfuture.org is the website for Greta's movement: "#FridaysForFuture is a movement that began in August 2018, after 15 years old Greta Thunberg sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for three weeks, to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis. She posted what she was doing on Instagram and Twitter and it soon went "viral." – from About #FridaysForFuture website.
- The students and participants held their first Fridays for Future of La Crosse strike on July 12th at City Hall. Currently they hold them the last Friday of every month for about 40 minutes, or 12pm -4pm, if there is no school.
- Some of their most notable events:
 - Their first big strike was September 20th joining millions around the world in the Global Climate Strike when the local group collected about 300 signatures for a letter to Ron Kind urging him to co-sponsor climate bills.
 - 11/29 was their Black Friday Boycott strike – to fight consumerism and stand for climate action with local activists; they also spoke about reducing and offsetting carbon emissions, divesting our community from fossil fuels while collecting more signatures.
 - 12/6 was the sit-in at the offices of Rep. Ron Kind and Sen. Tammy Baldwin and the submission of the letter of signatures.

School Report Cards

Michael Lichucki, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Information on Report Cards can be found at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>
- La Crosse overall score is 70.9 which Meets Expectations.
 - Accountability Rating Score Stars:
 - Significantly Exceeds Expectations 83 to 100 *****
 - Exceeds Expectations 73 to 82.9 ****
 - Meets Expectations 63 to 72.9 ***
 - Meets Few Expectations 53 to 62.9 **
 - Fails to Meet Expectations 0 to 52.9 *
- Scores are calculated for each of the following priority areas on the state report card:
 - Student Achievement proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on state assessments.
 - Student Growth measured by year-to-year improvements in achievement.
 - Closing Gaps in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or an ethnic group with their peers).
 - On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness is a measurement using reliable predictors of high school graduation and potential post high school success.
- Report cards include ACT Aspire results for the first time this year to help show growth from 8th-9th, 9th-10th and 10th-11th grades.
- Question from a parent prompted discussion:
 - There is a national movement for Redefining Ready! including participants in Wisconsin. From the website, "Redefining Ready! is a national initiative launched by AASA (The School Superintendents Association) to introduce new research-based metrics to more appropriately assess that students are college ready, career ready, and life ready. The initiative is a response to dismal college and career readiness scores reported by standardized test makers that fail to portray a comprehensive picture of student potential.
- <https://www.redefiningready.org/>
- <https://www.wasda.org/page/WIReady?>

High Performance Learning (HPL)

Shelley Shirel, Director of Elementary Education/Supervisor of High Performance Learning and

Archie Barribeau, High Performance Learning Coordinator

- Until 2015, there were three people shared among 15 schools. In 2015, the Library Media dept merged with HPL to utilize LMC's FTEs as .83 LMC and .17 HPL. The HPL Coordinator crafts the curriculum, identifies the students, contacting parents, etc., allowing the school's HPL/LMC person to focus on the projects with the kids.
- Currently, every school building has an HPL FTE. Typically, HPL student scores >95% in ELA and Math, however current approach is top 10%.
- HPL for All will bring HPL curriculum into the classrooms – HPL will work with teachers to embed this curriculum into their classroom curriculum and have HPL-like experiences in universal teaching.
- U-Stars Plus is a new approach for teachers to look at potential in all of their students, particularly students that may have been previously overlooked due to economic, cultural or linguistic disadvantages, or children with disabilities. U-Stars Plus is an observation tool that helps teachers recognize strengths outside of the >95% of ELA and Math, like: student shows leadership, student does not like limited choices on tests, student is argumentative, student uses sarcasm/humor in social situations, etc.
- Universal Design for Learning – design a learning experience that meets the needs of all learners; Co-planning and Co-serving in the classroom.
 - Created a Leadership Bootcamp for all students at Spence, allowed 100% of kids to participate in HPL type activities
- Elementary Programming
 1. Academic Biathlon
 2. Digital Geography Bee
 3. Matt Hessel-Mial Writing Contest
 4. Digital Vocabulary Showdown
 5. Battle of the Books
 6. Hour of Code

- Middle School Programming
 1. Geography Bee
 2. Battle of the Books
 3. Innovation Showdown
 4. Author Showcase
 5. Hour of Code

Branding/Marketing

Nick Marcou, Communications Coordinator, was not able to make the meeting. This item will be rescheduled.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

David Stoeffler, Executive Director

- The first round of grants was awarded on 12/5/2019 at nearly \$44,000! The next round will be in February. The Rapid Response Grants program will be announced in January. It will focus on experiences and classroom materials.
- Handout of the grants list

Superintendent Updates

Randy Nelson, Superintendent

- The work on next year's budget will begin in Feb/Mar. There will probably be some reductions, as happens every three to four years. The district usually tries to do things like reprogramming instead of replacing retirees.
- There were 108 new students enrolled since the 3rd Friday count, but we've lost 53 students. Some of these new students came from private schools and some from virtual schools. Unfortunately, the funding does not come with them. District still has a goal of creating our own virtual school program.
- The Board is actively looking for our next Superintendent. They've hired a firm to do a national search and the profile is live. The firm will meet with teachers, staff, students, and parents for feedback. The hope is to have someone hired by March.
- The next DWP meeting on January 14th will be at Hogan Admin building and will include meeting with the hiring firm consultant and the public to give input on prospective candidates. There will be an online way to participate, as well.
- Elementary School updates include: Kid Yoga class, new sensory path, Hintgen's anonymous donor sponsored school-wide daily snack, lunchtime share tables for uneaten leftovers, PTO sponsored family pizza and bowling night, community lessons on what brings joy, artist in residence, Food for Fines, Veteran's Day with Hmong Color guard, and many more wonderful events.
- Post-Secondary School updates included Safety-focused partnership with Scott Johnson, Safety Coordinator. He is focused on making sure students can come to school ready to learn, give students a voice and teach them resilience.

Joys/Concerns

Hintgen successfully raised the funds and got their swings!

Future Agenda Items

- Five Year School Improvement Planning (each meeting)
- Legislative Update (Begin in January)
- Equity (October-May agendas)
- Board Linkage (April agenda)
- Trauma-Informed (Resilience)
- YRBS Results
- Addressing Disruptive Behaviors
- Sports/Extra-Curricular Participation
- Professional Development of Teachers
- Culturally Responsive Practices
- Sustainability Practices
- Wellness Policy
- Student Code
- Curriculum and Instruction Updates (elementary, middle, and secondary)
- School Safety
 - Grant, New Systems

- High Schools (backpacks, etc.)
- PTO Best Practices/Fundraising
- One-to-One Devices
- Year-Round School Update
- AVID Update – Troy McDonald
- High School Future Centers
- RTI - Early intervention
- Budget updates; legislative updates; innovative programs, clubs, projects in district
- Dealing with bullying amongst friends

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2019, Hogan Administrative Center, Room 209