

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: held virtually via Google Meet

- Land Recognition Statement
The City of La Crosse occupies Ho Chunk Lands
- Equity Showcase - GSA (15 minutes)
Cassandra Funmaker, from Logan HS GSA (Gender & Sexuality Club)
She spoke about the club being a social & activist club. Their mission is to create a safe place for LGBTQ+ students to interact, be themselves & support each other. They have had a day of silence as well as a school rally, for events. Members of the LGBTQ+ community have been harassed, and their suicide rates are at a daunting high, with most of these being black &/or indigenous. There are higher rates of incarceration of LGBTQ+ vs. cis genders. If anyone wishes to support funding &/or awareness, you can contact Byron Holz at: bholz@lacrossesd.org or Katie Beyer at: kbeyer@lacrossesd.org. You can find them on Instagram: loganhighgsa. La Crosse Central also has a GSA. There has been interest by middle schoolers & parents to have groups there, which Byron Holz stated he would be interested in helping them get started, but would need an advisor to work with the group of students. They are not represented well in health classes. The group meets biweekly, virtually for the time being, & has roughly 2 dozen members.
- School Showcase - Lincoln Middle (15 minutes)
Melissa Murray, Principal of Lincoln/SOTA II/Coulee Montessori spoke about the equity work that has been a steady work in progress. This is the 1st school in the district to receive Historical Trauma Training. They are working on Social Justice Efforts through displaying lots of imagery & language in the building, such as the flags in the front vestibule by the office, signs having Hmong, Ho Chunk, English, Spanish & German words to express locations, such as the office. Classroom practices offer diverse books. The school(s) also offer community activities, guest speakers, & professional development opportunities for staff, such as Social Justice Lessons. Other works to improve on Social Justice include eliminating detention, having Restorative Justice program (Circle Keepers), free babysitting training, reduces Out of School Suspensions, reduced truancy tickets, changing student celebrations to include 100% recognition for all students & having diversity celebrations. Ways to help: charity vs. justice – family engagement, understanding experiences for your children, experiences for marginalized children & families, value & benefit to the school community & greater community, & true belonging of all.
- La Crosse Public Education Foundation – Executive Director, David Stoeffler (10 minutes)
Grants that were awarded last week: 10 that added up to over \$23,000
\$11,000+ went to headsets with microphones for all teachers at the MS & HS levels to support learning experiences for the blended learning.

Tim Sprain received monies for virtual fieldtrips that he has been doing & will continue to do for students. Logan HS received monies for virtual school options to connect with students in Spain, Quebec, etc.

The next round of grant applications are due the end of February, 2021.

Remember that the LPEF loves to partner with & support PTO's when the PTO's contribute, showing a vested interest in the program or supplies.

- Sharing Concerns (10 minutes)

A parent asked if the CRVA will have consistency, with having the same teachers for 2nd semester. The student numbers are equal to what is present currently, so they do not see many changes needing to be made, unless something drastic happens. They plan to keep the teachers where they are at, working with the same students.

- Administrative Updates (25 minutes)

- a. Superintendent Update

The SRO decision will be made soon. There was a good representation of responses from a variety of stakeholders (teachers, staff, parents, students, & community members) The district will continue to re-evaluate the re-opening of schools for face-2-face instruction. Currently the numbers in the community do not look good. This will continue to be evaluated, looking at what is safe vs. unsafe, and anticipate that the Harvard Model, which will hopefully lead to clearer guidance, safety & wellness for the students & staff.

- b. Elementary Update

Shelly Shirel spoke about finishing 2 surveys regarding virtual instruction & received good response.

As far as grading goes, CRVA will be a little different, as they are following the curriculum form Florida, which has similar standards to La Crosse School District.

- c. Secondary Update

As far as grading practices go, the school district is working on improving those. On February 25th, the high schoolers will watch a Level Up, Virtual Bystander Presentation, via Zoom.

On December 17th, there will be the 2nd of listening sessions on Indigenous (marginalized) students

- 9. Joys & Shoutouts (15 minutes)

GearUp, Inc is a new 501C3 nonprofit organization that is working to help 1st generation college students with general supplies that are needed: towels, toiletries, etc. Find them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GearUpIncWI/>

They could use donations.

Please send any future meeting topic suggestions to kgalvan@lacrossesd.org .