

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 12, 2020 TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: held virtually via Google Meet

- Call to order at 7:02 pm
- Land Recognition Statement: An acknowledgment of the fact that the City of La Crosse Occupies the Land of Ho-Chunk People was shared.
- Minutes for November Izabella Britten's name needs to be corrected; approval with that modification moved by Anna Stindt. Minutes for December-approval was moved by Anna Stindt.
- Equity Showcase - YWCA (15 minutes) Tracie Stinson (Karter Etchin and Lily Wagner also attended on behalf of the program) shared her team's work in implementing Justice Circles The YWCA has been working in coordination with the district to run restorative justice at all middle schools. Longfellow only 1 year but Lincoln and Logan have been up and running for 6 years. Student Lily Wagner has been training younger students to build the program. Negative behaviors are dealt with through connection and relationship building. For more serious conflict, circle to work out issues and repair harm. Students are held accountable and take responsibility. Goals for restoration are set along with follow up. Racial justice and identities are important aspects. Students act as circle leaders. Some students use Circle simply because they are struggling and find it helpful. Implemented to help with the goal of reducing/ eliminating the school to prison pipeline. A student video was shared featuring the middle schoolers working as circle keepers. Welcoming circles, talk about racism and bullying, shared vulnerability, their experiences seeing positive results among their peers were all shared. The video will be shared with PTO reps. Lily's favorite part was what she took with her—paying more attention to issues, building empathy, unexpected new friends. We would like this to become so much the normal practice that it isn't even a topic of discussion anymore.
- School Showcase - Logan Middle—Cultural Awareness Family Nights (15 minutes) Alex and Amber spoke about their family nights. They had a goal of getting more families in the space to build relationships and comfort for the family members. Hope to build on volunteerism and involvement from adults. Began in 2018/19 with chili cookoffs, ice cream social fun day etc., in 2019/20 began thinking more about cultural and global competence. They invited community members, local organizations and families in to help develop focus. 1<sup>st</sup> was Cultural Games—Hmong spinning game-Tuj Lub, Gees Bend quilting, Loteria along with a family meal. 2<sup>nd</sup> was music, dancing and storytelling, including the Enduring Families Project, Hmong dancing, storytelling with Mai Cho, folktales and African drumming.

- La Crosse Public Education Foundation – Executive Director, David Stoeffler (10 minutes)  
David let us know that they are run by a volunteer board of directors and 3 new Board members have joined: Richard Bro UW-LAX, Andrew Borgert State Road and Lincoln parent, Tracy Bosch Emerson and Lincoln parent. Next week fundraising for an endowment fund to support the RAK program to help take care of needs of individual kids-whatever those might be. Usually this is \$1500-3000/ annually per school. This fundraising has been successful and so RAK Forever fund will begin. Coming soon are the annual grants award ceremonies at 4 schools. Featured speaker is Dr. Aaron Engel (superintendent) speaking on the equity strategy. Teachers and staff will be honored.
  
- Sharing Concerns (10 minutes)
  - Dawn mentioned that several SOTA 1 parents would be requesting formally that the School Board and Administration consider flying the Black Lives Matter Flag at SOTA/ Hamilton. Other school representatives interested in learning more about this request can email her at [bookwormmommy@gmail.com](mailto:bookwormmommy@gmail.com)
  - Anna mentioned that CRVA parents were interested in knowing more about whether it was possible to continue CRVA beyond this school year. Dr. Engel mentioned that there is conversation about this possibility. Some changes among staff or student structures depending on family needs and changes to enrollment. If so, it would still be self paced with more synchronous time and would transition away from Buzz to Canvas.
  - Amanda mentioned that she was concerned about the school discipline committee having better representation and diversity along with the oversight committee. Dr. Engel stated this was in process and many marginalized community representatives have been invited to participate.
  
- Administrative Updates (25 minutes)
  - a. Superintendent Update: The most pressing issue currently is the return to in person learning. Plans are being finalized by teachers and staff and all continue to consult with hospitals and County Health. Co-curriculars have begun. Vaccination plans are underway and all are being encouraged to be vaccinated if/ as possible to reduce risk for everyone. It is NOT required. Conditions will continue to be evaluated.
  - b. Elementary Update: All are very excited at the elementary level to welcome kids back into the building. Principals, teachers and more have been meeting frequently and working on the plans for how children will be back in the building. CRVA and face to face movement 55 asked to go back to in person learning and 30 asked to go to CRVA.
  - c. Secondary Update: Similarly, everyone has been gearing up for the return. 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade will each start for 2 days of orientation in advance of the school start. Teachers will continue to teach through the platform. Those in person can pick up on body language, so canvas students will be paid special attention to in order to ensure they are getting the info. Cohorts were built in a variety of ways. Math class,

alphabetical, music class etc. all considered. Lunch meals will be sent home at the end of each cohort for the upcoming days. Some of the communication was tricky to unravel, so more bulleted info will go out to simplify the information for families.

- 9. Joys & Shoutouts (15 minutes)
  - Katie mentioned the high energy at the high school and excitement from students
  - David mentioned that Northside has decorated the fencing to welcome students back next week.

Please send any future meeting topic suggestions to [kgalvan@lacrossesd.org](mailto:kgalvan@lacrossesd.org) .

Suggested topics:

- Special education programs
- Guidance counselors & social workers