

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE DATE:

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: To be held virtually

Those in Attendance: Laura Huber – Principal of Northside Elementary School, David Stoeffler – LPEF, Chelsey Myhre Foster – North Woods Elementary, Amanda Mather – CRVA, Stacey Everson – Director of Secondary Education, Tammy Wills – State Road Elementary, Anna Stindt – CRVA, Neal Meier – Emerson Elementary, Kathleen Leaver – Logan HS, Laura Eber – Lincoln MS, Shelly Shirel – Director of Elementary Education, David & Amy Delimat – Northside Elementary, Isabella Britten – Central HS Student, Calison Weiss - North Woods International, Patricia Sprang – Executive Director of Business Services, Troy Harcey – Associate Superintendent – Instruction, Aaron Engel – Superintendent of Schools, Jessica McGough – Summit Environmental, Elizabeth Digby-Britten – SOTA II, Jeremiah Galvan – Emerson Elementary, Alison Robinson – Polytech, Ann Thurman – Logan HS, Trista Treglowne – Member at Large, Tabatha Veum – Summit Environmental, Alicia Place – Southern Bluffs, Laura Olson – Member at Large, Nell Saunders-Scott – Coulee Montessori

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order @ 7:01pm

2. Land Recognition Statement

Recognition that La Crosse occupies Ho-Chunk land

3. Equity Showcase - Central Indigenous People's Club (10 minutes)

Izabella Britten is a junior at Central HS & the founder of the Indigenous People's Club, that was started in 2019. The purpose of the group is to be together with others who share the same ancestry as well as to help bring awareness to our community about Indigenous people. There are Logan HS students who are also a part of this club. Isabella spoke of the many issues that people may not be aware of, such as Indigenous women often go missing and are murdered. There is also police brutality that Indigenous people face. The club was able to present & received funds from SOUP, and have money they would like to be able to use to for events, once COVID issues have been taken care of. They have monthly virtual meetings & currently have a t-shirt sale going on. For further information on the club or for t-shirt sales, please contact Isabella via email at: ibrit455@lacrossesd.org, Instagram: @indigenouspeoplesclub, or at the following website: <https://gppsports.chipply.com/centralipc/store.aspx>

4. School Showcase – Northside & Coulee Montessori (10 minutes)

Principal Laura Huber spoke about how Northside Elementary has taken on “A Trauma Informed Approach to School”. They have taken on an emphasis of the whole child, collaborating with families and community. There has been more emphasis on connecting with students of color & assisting all students with needs such as: clothes closet, food pantry & helping with laundry. The staff have all taken a trauma informed approach, working together to understand the impacts of trauma & how to help one feel safe and supported. They have found positive connections with adults & peers that a

student would normally push away.

Trauma is stressful & overwhelming, not just with what they experience day to day, but also, can carry on the trauma of their ancestors that can impact them emotionally, behaviorally, & academically. The staff at Northside wanted to work to understand more & provide the needed services for the student body. The school received grants, including a DPI Mental Health grant to handle the costs. Their continued goal is to have the children feel more physically & psychologically safe so they can better engage in their school work. It is an ongoing effort that will always have some changes here & there to adapt to the needs of the students.

5. La Crosse Public Education Foundation – Executive Director, David Stoeffler (10 minutes)

The LPEF brought individually packaged snacks & some fruit as a special “Teacher Appreciation” act for all the staff at every school. This was greatly appreciated, as they have heard positive feedback. This was partly due to a special fund set up by a retired teacher, Carol Taebel, who continues to support the teachers & community. There were a couple of other grants given out, including to Josh Wolcott, Kim Novak, & the rest of their group for creating a set of presentations on how to be effective in teaching in a blended format. Liz Ramsey received a grant, as she went & delivered treats & gifts to her students at Longfellow MS. LPEF is working on the next set of grants that they received 12, whereas the normal amount is ~30. The winners will be announced the 1st week of December.

6. Sharing Concerns (30 minutes)

a. Parents Perspective

Will there be a broader idea or way of marketing & communicating for the choice & charter schools for next year?

Yes, the district has been regrouping & rethinking steps, during this time of COVID 19.

The district is developing new communications via mailings & the school websites.

These communications are due to be out the end of this month, with information on how to apply.

The La Crosse Public Library, although, not currently open for programming, is willing to help promote the charter schools.

7. Administrative Updates (15 minutes)

a. Superintendent Update (Aaron Engel)

Virtual school has been extended through January 18th, due to the high numbers of COVID 19 in our area. The district is continuing to investigate when the k-2nd graders could at least be brought back into the schools, when it is safe. They are looking at various models and are also meeting with those from the Harvard Model that the school district is following, on November 11th.

Next Monday is the next School Board Meeting, where they will be talking about the SRO program as well as changing the Central HS mascot.

The district is also in the process of going through a facility study, particularly for the elementary & middle schools. They are faced with aging schools & declining

enrollment in the district. There is a possibility of a referendum & other tough decisions to look at in the future. A question was asked if the school district has exit surveys for those families leaving the district. Up to this time, there have been no surveys, but is a great option to look into.

The district is also looking into the option of having childcare in the district

b. Elementary Update (Shelly Shirel)

Laura Huber's presentation on the trauma informed approach was great! They are working on that as well as PBIS in a virtual format.

3 principals were hired during COVID 19:

Eric Check – Emerson Elementary

Kari Huth – Spence Elementary

Keri Holter – North Woods International. -which they are preparing for their International Baccalaureate audit

The principals are doing well in their schools, even with the pandemic giving limitations. The virtual learning model is the most difficult with the younger students (grades k-2), when they cannot be independent & needs so much hands-on help with comprehension. Parent/Teacher conferences went well & progress reports are being sent out for quarters 1 & 3 this year, instead of the report cards parents are accustomed to receiving.

***Online enrollment opens up on Monday, November 16th. 4K enrollment will be available.

c. Secondary Update (Stacey Everson)

Robotic attendance calls were started, and parents can expect to receive calls when their students are absent. These calls will be in the early evenings.

Emails have gone out to parents with Canvas Observer Codes, where they can see their students assignments & other things going on in their classes.

Sports & co-curriculars – they are looking into creative ways to have coaches continue to meet with athletes/students in a virtual format. The indicator of when these can take place in-person will be when the k-2nd grade students can start back face-to-face in school.

The school district is still planning that when we are able to go back to face-to-face instruction, there will still be a transition of elementary starting 1st, then middle schools, then high schools. Part of this is staffing measures to be considered, to make sure the district has the staffing measures needed, including substitutes, etc.

Are the metrics being looked at & currently used going to change?

Aaron Engel answered that with the fact that the school district is looking at new data, & will be meeting with those working on the Harvard Model to see what they have learned since July, when they brought out their metrics that the district is currently following.

How are the middle school & high school students doing in general?

Difficult to answer, with getting some facts, & some opinions. Those students who were Normally making gains are continuing to make gains. Virtual format is easier for some Students who get distracted easily, but more difficult for others, when they cannot ask a question individually to their teacher during class (would be heard by entire class).

8. Joys & Shoutouts (15 minutes)

State Road PTO held a Question & Answer Virtual Forum for parents to ask the Principal questions based on the educational needs of students & how the school is working on those needs. It was well attended with great questions & feedback for teachers and principal.

There are 65 different waivers, such as transportation, curriculum instruction, etc. to scale efforts in the district. They are looking into efforts from local businesses – a big topic that will be discussed in a further meeting.

North Woods had a fundraiser at Noodles & Company that raised \$762. This coming Monday, they are having a Make a Difference Monday at the La Crosse Distilling Company.

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