

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE

Minutes to be taken by: Laura Eber

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: To be held virtually

In Attendance: Nell Sauders-Scott, Jeremiah Galvan, Neal Meier, Sara Jackson, David Delimat, Dawn Wacek, Alicia Place, Pam Hansen, Tammy Wills, Jessica Mcgough, Laura Eber, Lori Potkay, Elizabeth Digby-Britten, Alison Robinson, Laura Olson, Katie Leaver, Ann Thurman, Anna Stindt, Trista Treglowne, Aaron Engel, Troy Harcey, Patty Sprang, Shelley Shirel, Stacey Everson, David Stoeffler, Emily Hauser-Smith, Deborah-Eve Lombard, Sara Rugg Benjamin Burns, Lyndall Breaux

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order 7:03pm
2. Land Recognition Statement – for Black History Month, a statement was made to acknowledge that La Crosse was originally a sundown town.
3. Approve Minutes Approved, motioned by Nell, 2nd by Tammy.
4. Equity Showcase - Black Student Leaders - Lyndall Breaux & Krystail Young (15 minutes)
Krystail Young spoke about how, as a black person, her hair routine takes a long time, when she wants to wear it down, but often has to out it up, as everyone wants to touch it. People don't understand her troubles & frustrations. She also shared how she has experienced having teachers that don't want to even talk about Black History Month at school in February. Krystail encouraged everyone to know that there are Black History movies coming out, & that more black culture should be shown & discussed in schools and our community.
Lyndall Breaux spoke of how being a student of color that her hair itself is not a bad thing, but how people look at her hair & react to her headwrap is, along with white people using the "n" word. School focuses on White European History & Roman History, sometimes even replaces Black History Month & it shouldn't. It is difficult to learn or want to go to school when black students are having to teach teachers about being black. It is difficult to go when people look at her for the color of her skin first, not looking at her as being a human first.
Schools: there is a lack of information. Education in our district could be improved by having speakers and movies on black culture, and give the community more information. The small things black people deal with build up over time and causes more hurt and frustration.
5. School Showcase - Hamilton Community School - Ben Burns and Sara Rugg (15 minutes)
Ben Burns, the Principal of Hamilton spoke of what a Community School is: It is partnering with students, families, & community to achieve equitable outcomes by leveraging school as a hub of engagement & collaboration.
We are familiar with ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences), with the things we see, but they account for many things that people feel, that people don't have control in preventing (i.e., divorce). One focus with a community school is meeting systemic needs proactively, looking for the reason behind the problem. We need not to work on or for people (imposing our values onto them), but work with people to make achievements.

Sara Rugg spoke of how they accomplish some of their work that involves many community organizations & people with the following:

Integrated Student Services

Expanded & Enriching Learning Time Opportunities (like the curriculum “Safe at Home” that was virtual this year due to the pandemic, but with hope of continuing & expanding on the program & incorporate more club opportunities, such as game club, 4H, etc.

Active Family & Community Engagement

Collaborative Leadership Practices

School PTO’s could do a “needs assessment” for the school & help lead & launch some of these activities.

What happens after Elementary School? MS & HS get lost, as kids get older. There is a gap, & losing their interest is real.

How do you engage more parents to be involved at the secondary level? Life gets more complex and needs to give students more empowerment & engagement. Focus less on parents & more on students doing more – like a “re-boot” where students interact more. Need to get the school community (parents, students & teachers) own it & work together.

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

David Stoeffler invited all to register to attend an in-person Grants Award Ceremony on Monday, March 8th, 11:30am – 12:30pm. 4 sites: Central HS, Lincoln MS, Logan MS, & Logan HS in the auditoriums. Crowd sizes will be limited & masks mandatory. Register by February 26th.

LPEF still has \$45,000 to give in the form of grants. The February application deadline has extended to March 29th.

7. Sharing Concerns (10 minutes)

There are not enough handicap doors available at schools for locker rooms, restrooms, entryways, etc. Dr. Engel said that is true & something to further look at for improvements.

8. Administrative Updates (25 minutes)

a. Superintendent Update

The focus has been returning to school. HS students returned in a hybrid format this week

and so far, is going well. Students are showing excitement.

There is a limited amount of substitute teachers in the district. Some from Hogan have had to step in and teach in classrooms.

Bussing issues have been a problem, and are being worked on & corrected through many changes that have occurred day-to-day.

- How soon before staff & teachers get vaccinated?

The school district is working hard with the county health department to get vaccinations going for everyone, as soon as they can, with the March 1st date still set for WI. There have been a lower number of doses distributed than planned, so supply is a problem.

- Do parents need to let principals at their schools know if they plan to be in-person or CRVA for next year?

Yes, the schools are looking at staffing for next year. The sooner you know, it would be preferred to let them know.

b. Elementary Update – Shelley Shirel

The students have been doing great with wearing masks & being engaged. The transition has worked out great so far!

Marcia Gardner is 1 of 3 finalists for the Presidential Award for Mathematics & Science On February 26th Hintgen Elementary is having a “Read Your Heart Out” which will be virtual & have readings focusing on African American values & history. Some of the readers include Kamala Harris, poetry by Kobe Bryant, Jonah Larson & more.

For “Best of La Crosse” there are many elementary school & secondary teachers that have been nominated. Take advantage & vote!

c. Secondary Update – Stacey Everson

MS started hybrid last week, while HS started hybrid this week. Students are following the mask mandates with very few issues. The 2021-2022 school year registration is underway at the secondary schools.

At the high schools, the ATC will be taken by all 11th graders, at school, on March 9th. Students received an email on school climate to get input on how the current climate affects their current learning.

There is a Bystander Presentation “Level Up” on February 25th by Jennifer McCarey A Black Youth Summit will be virtual & is in the planning for March 13th

Sports: Girls basketball playoffs are this week. Boys basketball playoffs are next week. Cole Fitzpatrick qualified for the State Wrestling Meet. Fall sports will be starting soon, having a shortened season, then a regular spring season will happen.

9. Joys & Shoutouts (15 minutes)

The presentations were good this month! Thanks to Elizabeth Digby-Britten & Aaron Engel for the planning of tonight!

Meeting adjourned: 8:24pm

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

Suggested topics:

- Special education programs
- Guidance counselors & social workers