

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE

Minutes to be taken by: Laura Eber

DATE: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: To be held virtually Google Meet link: meet.google.com/gfw-pvcm-izw

In Attendance: Lori Potkay, Jessica McGough, Neil Meier, Trista Treglowne, Troy Harcey, Kathleen Leaver, Neil Saunders, Laura Eber, David Delimet, Kellie Schmitz, Patricia Sprang, Aaron Engel, Dawn Wacek, Kelly Galvan, Jeremiah Galvan, Shelley Shirel, Anna Stindt, Elizabeth Digby-Britten, Mia Kia Yang, Stacey Everson, David Stoeffler, PaHoua Vang, & Tammy Wills

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order

2. Land Recognition Statement - We took a moment to recognize that we inhabit the land that was originally Ho Chunk land.

3. Approve Minutes (<https://www.lacrosseschools.org/minutes/>)

- Dr. Engel motioned to approve & Tammy Wills 2nd the motion. March minutes were revised by Elizabeth Digby-Britten to say hygiene products instead of feminine hygiene products (in the Central HS FEM Club presentation). Motion was approved.

4. Equity Showcase - Hmong Student presentation (15 minutes)

- There weren't any Hmong students asked to be at the meeting, that felt comfortable or safe to attend, due to the amount of Asian hate they feel in the community.

5. School Showcase - Hmong Immersion (15 minutes)

- PaHoua Vang (LCSD) & Mai Kia Yang (GET) spoke about Hmong Immersion in schools. The vision of preserving the Hmong culture & language is very important. It is estimated that in 2100, the Hmong language will be extinct. Having classes, especially starting with elementary schools is key for students being able to speak in Hmong and English, as well as making Hmong families feel like they belong in the community & schools. Seeing teachers that are Hmong, and look like them gives the students & parents a sense of belonging & pride.
- There is a preschool & kindergarten summer school program that has grown into including 1st & 2nd grade, where 50% is speaking in Hmong, 50% speaking in English. The curriculum is presented using stories, finger plays, daily instruction, number's etc. They have guest speakers who are Hmong, as well as taking some field trips that include garden visits & visiting Deep Roots & the Interstate Fair. When going to the gardens, the students get to eat some of the food for snacks. They have received great feedback from Hmong families, noting they love to see the diversity in the community, as well as being taught by someone who speaks Hmong.

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

- Staff appreciation activities were shown at the schools. Treats & fruit were brought into each school for the staff. Staff members were nominated by parents & other staff, which accumulated to over 100 nominations. There was a School Nutrition worker as well as a Teacher Assistant who were named Shining Stars, receiving recognition & grants.
- <https://lacrosseeducationfoundation.org/teacher-cook-and-teacher-assistant-receive-shining-stars-recognition-grants/>

7. Sharing Concerns (10 minutes)

- Many agreed that the PTOs could do much more to support their schools and represent/show Hmong & other minority cultures. Lincoln MS/SOTA II/Coulee Montessori has done a great job, having flags hung in the school and having a lending library of many books that Principal Melissa Murray has. If other PTOs could work to involve more minority parents into the group, welcoming them & receiving input, the schools could show more diversity
- Could the school district have events where guest speakers had presentations for the parents/adults in the community? (Zoom or in-person). This could reach so many more & assist in getting more families to be more involved in their child(ren)'s schools.
- Hamilton/SOTA I has been working on gender equity & has showcased this.

8. Administrative Updates (25 minutes)

a. Superintendent Update

- Dr. Engel announced that there will be COVID Vaccination clinics for students in the high schools. The district hopes that many will take advantage to get students vaccinated. There may be middle school clinics as well in the summer, working with the BGC & YMCA to get as many vaccinated for COVID as possible.
- Next year: herd immunity will make things easier to have more normal sports seasons & such. Masks may still be required at the beginning of the school year. The district will let science help guide the decision. There will still be restrictions on visitors in the buildings, sharing food, etc.
- Will masks be required outside for summer school this summer? They are still looking into that, and will be able to answer that closer to June summer school start time.
- The district is continuing to look at facility planning, balancing the wants & needs of the students, buildings, staff, & community.
- The school district has received ESSER Funds to use for technology, facility needs, etc. They have used up the 1st round of funds, but there will be 2 more rounds of funds to work with up through 2024. Plans are coming soon & feedback from staff & community is in consideration.
- - i. DWP Meetings next year- survey will be sent to committee to give feedback.
 - ii. Educational Equity Strategic Plan - Kellie Schmitz 1. Forum: May 25th @
 - Complicated when looking at metrics and cycles of earning. With learning being cyclical, not linear, many components are being evaluated

& considered, such as: leadership, communities, educators, curriculum, etc. Can see more at:

<https://www.lacrosseschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Strategic-Plan-for-Educational-Equity.pdf>

- May 25th: there will be a Googlemeet meeting that is open for anyone in the district to attend: 5:30pm, Virtual- meet.google.com/cep-sacj-xtw

b. Elementary Update

- Schools have been busy wrapping up the year with state testing as well as individual assessments. End of the year celebrations are in the planning at each school, where schools will be sharing information with their families when approved & set, some being sing-a-longs, outdoor activities, etc.
- The window for choice & charter schools ended on April 30th. There were over 200. Movements within the district, within elementary school ages (SOTA, Coulee Montessori, etc.). Staffing is sufficient for the fall.
- There are educational opportunities, including videos are being presented to 4th & 5th graders on the Hmong culture (i.e., refugees, refugee centers, etc. – Hmong Story Cloth, the Secret War in Laos, etc.) The videos are not available to the public, due to copyright laws.
- Dirk Hunter (Summit Environmental School) & Laura Huber (Northside/Coulee Montessori) are retiring. Dirk Hunter’s replacement will be named later this week, while Nikki Pope has been hired for Northside/Coulee Montessori.
- Thanks to LPEF, there was a STEM grant received, working on equity in the classrooms.

c. Secondary Update

- The district is continually working on academic curve plan – to inspire students to attend & engage to close the learning gaps that are currently noted. Next year, new changes to help build the bridge between 8th & 9th grade, to include a portfolio. Students need to feel confident & feel they can be successful after high school, whether they are going to go to a college/university, community college, enlist in the military, or working at a job.
- The high schools are developing new clubs: Riverhawks for Equity & Rangers for Equity.
- Will the high schools have a virtual option for next year to go along with CRVA & in[person? No, there will only be the 2 options of CRVA or In-Person. (virtual option was good for this year, but not ideal for student learning & increased some gaps, but being in a pandemic was a challenge for many). There will be “authorized” reasons for learning virtual, that will have to be approved by administration. (i.e., surgery, quarantining)

9. Joys & Shoutouts (15 minutes)

- Thank you for Logan HS having prom this year.
- Central HS will be having their prom on June 5th

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

Suggested topics:

- Guidance counselors & social workers
- Standards Based Grading