

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE  
DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: To be held virtually

Google Meet link: [meet.google.com/sck-hnfg-vfc](https://meet.google.com/sck-hnfg-vfc)

Those in Attendance: Kelly Galvan, Britta Rotering, Shelley Shirel, Natalie Doerfler, Aaron Engel, Katie Leaver, Alyson Glenz, Erin Belby, Amy Merkey, Gretchen Knudson-Stuhr, Neil Meyer, Neil Saunders-Scott, Stacey Everson, Tabatha Veum, Tammy Gruen, Troy Harcey, Anna Stindt, Ann Thurman, Alicia Place, Patricia Sprang, Laura Eber, Aimee Witt, Pamela Hanson, Trista Treglowne

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order 7:01

2. Land Recognition Statement

3. Approve Minutes - October 12, 2021 - Minutes approved

4. Showcase - Career and Technical Education - Britta Rotering, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education (25 minutes)

- Britta is new to the District. Her job includes coordinating numerous programs, including our academies. Works with career clusters that introduce pathways for students to explore numerous careers.
- The District can then provide many more opportunities. Receive business credentials (100, 200, 300 level courses), such as asst. childcare teacher license, Microsoft Office, ASK (accounting) advanced manufacturing, automotive, & more.
- Dual credit opportunities are available.
- By the start of 2022-2023, hope to have new courses for further expansion of opportunities for students to be able to be in other clubs, DECA, FBLA, etc.
- Qualities Career Pathways – students to take part in work-based learning activities:
- Health Science Academy (HSA), ACE – students build homes, & Engineering Academy
- Conversations are happening with local businesses to partner & strengthen career pathways with middle schoolers & high schoolers.
- Goal: Academic Career Planning – use Xello currently.
- Britta has had the opportunity to meet with people to look at what aviation to look like in La Crosse. – Exciting and looking to offer more.
- Question: How do students in HS find out about these opportunities for dual credits & other opportunities? In past school counselors & Stacey Everson have spoken to students. There is a plan for the future to use student services to talk more to students during homeroom or resource time. The plan is to get Guidance Counselors more educated on all the opportunities to discuss with students. Britta would love to know other ways for info to be best received by students and families.

- Wish to publicize the programs more. Britta is happy to discuss information & meet with students. Her position is year-round. Work based learning doesn't have to be signed up for by a certain date. Dual credit – plan to have a list of those courses available for students to know those particular courses available.
- Stacey Everson shared that Britta has her doctorate in this area & is a huge benefit to our district & students.

## 5. Administrative Updates (35 minutes)

### a. Superintendent Update

- Dr. Engel shared that Tabatha Veum has been given the School Social Worker of the Year award & does a fantastic job in the school district!
- School Facility Study has been wrapped up. Survey results are in and will be presented to the Board of Education on December 6th.
- COVID still remains, but there is a COVID Vaccination clinic with community partners to have shot clinics for all age 5+. This should increase pool of those who won't have to quarantine if named a close contact. Test-and-stay program started last week & many students have been able to stay in school for this option.
- Winter will complicate things with illnesses, but hopefully by 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter we can move away from masking if our District case counts go down. We will continue to follow advice from experts.

### b. Secondary Update - Stacey Everson

- The District is always looking for new opportunities. Soon, they are hoping to have a Hmong Language class offered for students at high school level.
- Co-curriculars & bus transportation are still an issue, but at this point, should not see events cancelled. Solutions have been implemented and issues are continually being addressed.
- Negative thoughts are out due to sports – students may not be able to participate in sports if in test-and-stay, named a close contact. Sports are higher risk than classroom, which is why they could remain in class, but not participate in sports.
- Dr. Engel encouraged everyone to consider vaccinating, if they are not already, so they wouldn't have to quarantine if named a close contact.
- Standards Based Grading/Learning/Teaching. Secondary levels are planning & preparing for this grading. We should hear more 2<sup>nd</sup> semester on this. For now, the letter grades are staying the same. Still looking for parent feedback, focus on the learning & teaching, vs. grading.

### c. Elementary Update – Shelley Shirel

- Foster Grandparent Board (Workforce Connections) – working with students & in classrooms to assist classrooms & students with tutoring. This is a great opportunity. Schools can reach out to Shelley Shirel if interested in this program. Polytechnic will soon be working with this program.
- Self-awareness & self-management have been the focus. Teachers are working hard to add this into their curriculum for a positive impact for all learners in the District.

- Working on refreshing the grading scale/standards for what is needed (decrease the high number of standards down to the essential standards that feed into mastery of those standards & learning targets, so students can better receive additional learning opportunities, as they will be picked up easier. Standards will be expressed in more family-friendly terms going forward.
- Earliest learners – any student who will be 4 on or before Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, parents can begin registration December 17<sup>th</sup> for 4K. After they have completed the registration, they can go online on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to select 4K location. Parents can enroll/register online via Skyward. Dr. Engel noted that students who are 4 years old are ready...even if there are limitations with language, wheelchair, or other disabilities. We have resources to work with all students. Parents can get tours with classrooms to see what goes on.
- Questions
  - – On standards – Have the trends moved up & down? The work has been to take the plethora of standards & pick what is most essential, what is important, & what is nice to know. The focus is to narrow down & work on the most essential for students to be successful. Teachers can focus on those standards to be mastered by students.
  - Range of supports for students have increased at schools. The range of Mental Health has increased. EAP – can have students meet with those therapists for a few sessions, to see if more help is needed, and how to get them on the best pathway for the individual. Parents should check with the school guidance counselor with any questions or to know more about this opportunity.
  - LPEF Director update – in midst of search. 1<sup>st</sup> round didn't result in filling the position. If anyone knows of someone great with experience in education & fundraising, please refer them to Dr. Engel or Dr. Harcey.

6. Sharing Concerns (15 minutes) - Items must be of District-wide concern. No individual staff, school or student will be discussed.

- Concern of added sugar being served to kids. Parent has heard that the fresh fruit is often raisins. Breakfast is often sugary options like chocolate chip muffins or mini cinnamon rolls. CFCAP vs. National School Lunch Program. Can we get parents & district talk & look at menus to have healthier options? - Dr. Engel is happy to have connections made with parents to discuss this further with School Nutrition manager. (Perhaps we can have School Nutrition present at future DWP meeting.)

7. Joys & Shoutouts (10 minutes) - Fun things happening at a school or upcoming PTO fundraisers.

- HS – Career conference – was very well tailored,
- The amount of AP/Honors courses & other opportunities we have are far more compared to other districts!
- Dr. Engel was able to get out and substitute teach a music class last Friday & was impressed by the excitement of students.

- Coulee Montessori faculty doing a great job with the COVID situation.
- School calling about lice – school nurse was good. The nit comb was supplied. The funding for that is appreciated.
- PTO's & schools challenged to look outside the box for fundraisers. Spence raised \$21,000 from their walk-a-thon!
- Students picking up on increase of inclusion efforts in schools & sharing with parents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

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

- Guidance counselors & social workers
- Standards Based Grading
- ProjectAWARE
- Dangers of energy drink consumption
- Hearing loss due to headphones/ear buds