

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE
DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 8, 2022

TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: To be held virtually

Google Meet link:

meet.google.com/sck-hnfg-vfc

Those in attendance: Katie Leaver, Kelly Galvan, Aaron Engel, Troy Harcey, amy Merkey, Patricia Sprang, Amanda Wolfgram, Kathi Blanchard, Trista Treglowne, Gretchen Knudson, Jennifer Riggle, Alyson Glenz, Erin Belby, Jason Harden, Shelley Shirel, Anna Stindt, Nell Saunders-Scott, Laura Eber, Rebecca Smith, Meagan Ronsman, Pamela Hansen, Aimee Witt

1. Call to Order @ 7:05pm
2. Land Recognition Statement
3. Approve Minutes - January 11, 2022

Motions to approve: 1st: Anna Stindt. 2nd: Rebecca Smith

4. Showcase - Performing Arts (25 minutes)
 - a. Mandi Wolfgram - Elementary
Music Teacher at Northwoods Elem. Fine arts took huge step forward being able to have a music person. Due to COVID, 3 grants have been received & utilized through LPEF & PTO from Northwoods:
 - 1) Folk Dance artist & resident – finished up last week. Instead of family folk dance night , they had a get together with live movement is groups. She will be at Spence, then is doing an in-service for all elementary music teachers in March.
 - 2) Tony Yang is working on exploring Hmong instruments & Hmong music to reach out to students & show their rich culture. On February 14th there is an in-service for all elementary music teachers bringing with it a cultural context.
 - 3) Neng Nou will speak on Zoom to work with most elementary schools with Hmong 3rd – 5th graders to celebrate Hmong culture, then with all 3rd – 5th grade students to share the Hmong culture with the schools. Together, Hmong language & Hmong music connect together to have different meanings.
Those dates: TBD
 - b. Jason Harden - Middle School
Lincoln MS Band Director. Traditional band, choir, & orchestra. 2 concerts, lessons & classes. March in the Torchlight Parade, rehearsing in the fall. Logan

MS also marches in the parade. Holiday Brass performs, Festive Flutes, Winter Winds perform at elementary schools as well as the Capital in Madison Spring time: Symphonic Band combines all grade levels to play more challenging & fun music like Star Wars. In past, they have performed at conference La Crosse Stars – started from a grant through LPEF & expanding to high schools. They will compete in the Twin Cities in a couple of weeks.

They received another LPEF grant got stands & percussion items for winter drumline. Kelly will provide the video that Jason was unable to share with us.

c. Ian Schultz - High School

Full time Choir Director at Central this year. & Show Choir Grand Central Station

There are many opportunities at the high school level: 2 levels of orchestra, 2 band, 2 choir, pep band, show choir, etc. The choirs compete at the highest levels. Marching band performs at the Oktoberfest Parade. Orchestra, band & choirs compete in many ways around the state & show off high talent. There is also a Music Theory class as an opportunity to learn more about music. Sounds Class is also offered to go in-depth on types of sound in musical arts. Lessons & skills that are learned go beyond the musical classroom. Ian's email:

ischultz@lacrossesd.org

Logan Show Choir competition this weekend that will show off High School & Middle School talents.

5. Administrative Updates (35 minutes)

a. Superintendent Update

Glad to have great music programs here in La Crosse.

February can be a tough month for many. The school district has mental health resources available: 2 student/family counselors are working & can meet for short-term counseling needs. Reach out to counselors & principals if there is a need. 2 community social workers. CCS – to work with those who have significant needs for mental health. Screening software & assessments are also being used at schools for Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

COVID – there has been a substantial decline in cases (1 month ago 400+/day, now 80/day as of today). The school district is considering next steps for the mitigation strategies to move forward. Some things that have helped: new treatments, vaccination available for more, variants changing, with less severe symptoms, etc.

There is a primary election coming up on February 15th that includes voting for school board members. Hopefully more people in our community will exercise their right to vote. All those running for the school board will be invited to speak at March DWP meeting for us to meet them.

LPEF update: Nell Saunders-Scott

- Music grants were a great way to share some updates.

Gold Star Grants round due 2/8. They have had parental groups apply as well as teachers. Parent awareness of LPEF supports can help those communications with schools & teachers. <https://lacrosseeducationfoundation.org/goldstar/>

Beer By Bike Brigade fundraiser for Random Acts of Kindness, for immediate needs that need to be met. Look for them on Facebook.

- b. Secondary Update: Stacey Everson unable to be present tonight.
- c. Elementary Update

Field trip suspensions have been lifted for February, with COVID numbers decreasing. Assemblies are no longer suspended. Schools have discretion to move forward, still looking at using mitigation strategies, based on spaces, and rooms in buildings. Each building may look a little different, based on their space. Report cards were recently sent out. They broke things down to “Essential Standards” as priority standards. This will be what report cards will look like next year.

Throughout district, grades 3 – 12: climate surveys are going out & teachers go through the questions. Some questions: I like school. Teachers encourage me to do well. I get along with others in my school (respectful, responsible, & safe). Completed by Thursday. Used at district level & at building levels for plans & improvements.

4K enrollment ~160; usually have 400+, have many open spots. Encourage friends to touch base with the school district in the 4K office to register .(Northside & Hamilton offer M-Th all day 4K – who live within those school boundaries). All 9 elementary schools have 4K. Hamilton & Northside are the only ones that have all day.

Intra-district/open enrollment applications can be filled out now. Open until April 29th. Choice & Charter options: Montessori, Poly-tec, SOTA, year long school, etc. Make choices ASAP to help schools with staffing needs. The earlier, the better to enroll. Please keep in mind that hiring decisions for schools are made in March.

Question:

Central/Logan boundaries – transportation due to moving. What are options?

Answer:

Work with bus company or Principal on those issues. There is a pick-up site at Hogan Admin. Center already.

Southern Bluffs – Lisa Schreiner is retiring at the end of this school year. She will be missed, but she is wished the best in her retirement. She wants the best person hired possible so school district will post the position, open February 9th - March 6th. If you know of any amazing person, let them know & spread the word.

Question:

Can the district request a residency option for Principals – principal should live within the boundaries of the school district to care more about the community? Is that a policy? Can the board do that?

Answer:

It is not allowed legally to require them live in school boundaries; cannot be in contracts. They can have incentives, but by law, cannot mandate they live within certain boundaries.

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

Questions for standardized testing for kindergarteners – state doesn't require, but school district does? Can parent opt out?

No standardized testing K-2; assessments are 1) monitor student progress & 2) AGR mandated by state to get state funds to reduce class sizes, requires school district to monitor student success. The school district works hard to streamline assessments use them & to streamline instruction, for additional support to reach benchmarks. Some assessments done may not have been required, so they didn't have to do them, but some teachers use them to help base their instructional focuses & needs for students. 1st – 5th grade using I-ready (like STAR testing). The school district submits a plan & application every 5 years & create the assessment plan they want to use & submit to the state with that application. They do have to have assessments & report those to the state. 4K & K levels work with a lot with learning through play, which is crucial for learning. The school district focuses a lot to work with play for proper development of kids/students.

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

Cell phone usage at Central- Administrators & Staff have worked hard to keep students off cell phones during class – has been positive in classrooms, with students not texting or being on social media during classes.

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

Suggested topics:

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