

School District of La Crosse  
District Wide Parent Committee Meeting

Those in Attendance:

Laura Eber, Kelly Galvan, Aaron Engel, Merideth Garcia, Anna Stindt, Kathi Blanchard, Jennifer Riggle, Katie Berkadahl, Juan Jimenez, Lori Potkay, Alicia Place, Patricia Sprang, Shelley Shirel, Jessica McGough, Pamela Hanson, Erin Belby, Laura Steigerwald, Rebecca Anderson, Trista Treglowne, Troy Harcey, Alyson Glenz, Rebecca Smith, Ann Thurman, Neil Saunders-Scott, Meagan Ronsman, Amy Merkey,

**DATE: Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

**TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**LOCATION: To be held virtually**

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order
2. Land Recognition Statement
3. Approve Minutes - February 8, 2022

Alicia Place – motion to approve, Anna Stindt 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – was voted on & approved.

4. Showcase - Board of Education candidates

- Contact Kelly Galvan ([kgalvan@lacrossesd.org](mailto:kgalvan@lacrossesd.org)) to request a copy of this part of meeting to view

- a. Each candidate will have 5 minutes to introduce themselves and speak about their candidacy. i. Candidates will speak in order of ballot listing:

1. Kimberly Krejchik [kimberly8231@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly8231@gmail.com) - Unable to attend due to All City Strings Concert
2. Kent Stein [kent.stein@icloud.com](mailto:kent.stein@icloud.com) - Did not respond to invitation
3. Juan Jimenez: [jfj@lacrosseschools@gmail.com](mailto:jfj@lacrosseschools@gmail.com) - In attendance
4. Merideth Garcia: [mmg@lacrosseschools@gmail.com](mailto:mmg@lacrosseschools@gmail.com) - In attendance
5. Katie Berkedal: [katielacrosseschools@gmail.com](mailto:katielacrosseschools@gmail.com) - In attendance
6. Mary LaMothe [maryj.lamothe@gmail.com](mailto:maryj.lamothe@gmail.com) - Unable to attend

5. Administrative Updates

- a. Superintendent Update

- i. Community Services invite to [Code of Rights & Responsibilities](#) feedback

1. Tuesday, March 29th @ 6:30pm-7:30pm  
Please invite others from your PTO.

Alicia Place - get feedback from stakeholders, getting feedback on policies, SRO's etc. This year, focusing on subjective discipline. (students of color are higher represented). Need parent feedback for meeting:

2. Virtual: <https://lacrossesd-org.zoom.us/j/98868477938>

Dr. Engel:

- 1<sup>st</sup> day of mask-optional in district today. Feedback is generally excited to see full faces & not have to nag students to put masks back on/wear correctly. If future outbreaks occur, may have to re-access.
- School Budgets – looking at currently. State is not giving new/more money to spend. The school district is working at alleviating a deficit for next year's budget. Have to be efficient & want to still offer the best possible education for students & work to adapt to the current landscape with declining enrollment.
- Finalizing long-range facility plans – Community survey will come out in May. Survey results will guide the District on next steps toward Referendum in November.

b. Secondary Update - none; Stacey Everson unable to attend meeting.

c. Elementary Update

Shelley Shirel:

- Update: still working on 4K enrollment. Working on increasing enrollment, but not where the district would like to see. A commercial has been aired on TV. Yard signs will get put out. Encourage people you know who have 4 yr. olds to register for 4K program.
- Starting the process of filling Southern Bluff's Principal position for next year. Have good candidates. Will be interviewing during the next 2 weeks, with staff, parents and administration.
- Working on learning targets – priority standards that are essential- to work with students towards mastery of standards.
- Thank you for those parents & students participating in Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- End of month: Elem. Students going to Hmong Cultural Center to learn more & engage in the Hmong culture.
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Questions from Committee members:

- Have things shifted for 4K that has caused the shortage? Is worrisome, down 75 students compared to normal enrollment numbers. Looking at how 4K program is currently structured – is it meeting the needs of the families (model 1 – during class time @ school vs. model 3 – daycare options before or after class time). District is wondering & looking at young families not being able to get out in the community like in the past, due to the pandemic, resulting in an increase in the advertising campaign. Transportation could be part of the issue as well.
- Any thoughts of daylong programs? Can schools provide daycare? Currently 2 schools have all day option – Hamilton & Northside, subsidized with ESSER funds. Families that live in those two boundaries can enroll in all day option. Another challenge is childcare crisis in the community, state & nation. Significant impact on current daycares & their income. Surround care for 4K kids & siblings – utilizing members in the community? District has been meeting with and brainstorming with the city & county. Larger cities have programs that have partnerships, The school

district has been working with & finding out extent of problems & how to manage all issues.

- Open Enrollment time – goes through the end of April. This enrollment period is established by the state= Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>. Schools are looking at their budgets & preliminary staff needs currently. They will re-evaluate the needs at the end of this month & early April. They try to do their best with what information they have.

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

- Could DWP meeting be changed if big district concert in future? Yes
- Conferences for next year: 2 evenings in fall & 2 evenings in the spring, in-person. How will teachers have time for all students? How about parents in secondary schools – will they get an opportunity to be at conferences for all teachers? School district will look at adjusting if the need arises but many schools plan to offer virtual and in-person options going forward.
- I-Ready tests – piloting or going to do from now on? They are moving to this. Pre-COVID, large amount of teachers that were looking at screening assessments & the information it gave them. Each level could vote on which screener they preferred. Elem. & MS chose I-Ready, HS chose STAR testing. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time to administer & get used to it, to see how to utilize the data. More training & conversations with staff & Student Success Teachers to work together – still in initial stages.
- School Board Candidate Forum tomorrow night at Logan HS (not a School Board Forum – is done by LIT:  
[https://www.news8000.com/student-organization-invites-la-crosse-school-board-candidates-to-forum/?fbclid=IwAR0ZargKVRyvaYEXK3qO4\\_5AeFaB5edojSSn11yXYk1anQTsr4c2leLEPSw](https://www.news8000.com/student-organization-invites-la-crosse-school-board-candidates-to-forum/?fbclid=IwAR0ZargKVRyvaYEXK3qO4_5AeFaB5edojSSn11yXYk1anQTsr4c2leLEPSw)  
The School District is providing the space
- Dr. Harcey: Happy National Women's Day! He also acknowledged how so many have worked to embrace students & families through the pandemic. Parents still asking how we can help, & how we can brainstorm. Thank you all!
- Dr. Engel – also gave a shoutout & thank you to women who do the work & volunteer!

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

- The music teacher & Alyson worked to get the Hmong teacher set up to speak to students about Hmong culture next week.
- Shoutout to teachers – a class pet snake died overnight, but teacher cared & showed attention & support to the students.
- Substitutes – 1<sup>st</sup> day where all staff were at SOTA 1/Hamilton; 1st in a long time.
- Chad Wilkinson & LPEF & La Crosse Community Foundation able to have the Planetarium at Central HS updated to the Planetarium – it is amazing & stunning!!!
- National Breakfast Week – school breakfast program has done an AMAZING job! Kudos to the School Nutrition Program!

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

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