

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE  
DISTRICT WIDE PARENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2022**

**TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**LOCATION: To be held virtually**

In attendance: Stacey Everson, Aaron Engel, Alyson Glenz, Katie Leaver, Nell Saunders-Scott , Ann Thurman, Troy Harcey, Shelley Shirel, Kelly Galvan, Amy Merkey, Anna Stindt, Erin Belby, Gretchen Knudson-Stuhr, Jennifer Riggle, Jessica McGough, Patty Sprang, Rebecca Smith, Trista Tregelowne, Amanda Goodenough, Laura Abellera

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order @ 7:02pm
2. Land Recognition Statement
3. Minutes - February 8, 2022 - Approved
4. Showcase - Social Responsibility Speaks (30 minutes)
  - a. Amanda Goodenough and Laura Abellera  
Social Responsibility Speaks works with many schools and businesses. Our school district has a multi-year agreement with SRS where they are offering support in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.  
Have completed 3 of 8 planned Professional Development sessions for staff.  
SRS representatives also volunteer with our schools to see all the efforts we are already making. They recently attended the Hmong cultural education project with all District 4th grade students.  
SRS asked for feedback from parents with the following questions:

What is the district doing well at with regard to justice and equity?

- Intentionally bringing light to the needs.
- Like that this is a multi-year emphasis.
- Teachers of all grade levels are showing ways they can contribute.

Where are the gaps and what can be improved?

- Would like it if we could provide parents more toolkits to speak to their own children.

What needs to be prioritized in the next five years?

- Suggestion that it may be beneficial to include SRS once we receive the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data for this year. Dr. Harcey indicated we would be eager to connect with SRS on it later this spring. The YRBS information will be especially important after two years of pandemic.

SRS also provided a link to submit anonymous feedback: <https://forms.gle/coGyy7rLsX4djEk38>  
Amanda and Laura offered their email addresses for anyone that would like to have one-to-one discussion on the efforts: [agoodenough@srspeaks.com](mailto:agoodenough@srspeaks.com) and [laura@srspeaks.com](mailto:laura@srspeaks.com)

## 5. Administrative Updates (30 minutes)

### a. Superintendent Update

- State Testing is happening currently in all school levels.
- Budget deficit is a current priority for the next school year. We have identified ways to structure this and pay off debt.
- Facility Planning is ongoing to right-size our district. Enrollment numbers are declining each year but we have the same number of school buildings. Each building comes at a cost to maintain, repair, heat/cool. Another community survey will be sent to every boxholder in the district. The current focus for the district facility planning is to explore consolidating to one high school. The secondary focus would be to right size to 2 middle schools. If the high school option is the supported plan, our middle school students would transition into the 2 existing high school buildings (Central and Logan High School). We have discussed options with purchasing the Trane Headquarters on Pammel Creek as the site for one consolidated new high school. We have not purchased any property yet.
- Planning to maintain same staff levels so class sizes can remain small, can offer additional courses that have not historically been able to run in either high school. There will be natural attrition due to retirement though.

- Community Q & A sessions will be held Tuesday April 26th and Tuesday, May 2nd at Lincoln Middle School. More info to come on those.
- Exploring all possible conflicts that could arise from such a change: transportation, school start times, finding ways to make students feel they belong,
  - Timeframe and cost:
    - Survey in May. Report results to Board of Education in June.
    - Should the Board recommend going to referendum for building 1 new high school, voters would vote on referendum in the November 2022 election.
    - ~3 years before building would be complete and ready for students/staff to move in.
    - Cost would be approximately \$16 annually in property taxes for a \$200,000 home in La Crosse.

#### b. Secondary Update

- District is focusing on additional reading and writing opportunities for current 8th graders. New courses offered that they can register for in 9th grade at Logan High or Central High.
- Central and Logan high schools will offer transition dates so any incoming freshman can go to their school building and get acclimated to their school before the first day.
- Parents of high school students: Convocation dates April 24th 4pm @ Logan HS; April 25th @ 7pm.
- May 27th will be the date for Graduation for Logan High School (5pm), Central High School (8pm) and Polytechnic (TBD).
- Standards Based Grading- report card will not look much different than now. We will no longer use the letter grade 'F' though. All new report cards will include a list of essential learning standards for each class so parents will now see the focus for their students in a specific course. The goal is to give parents more information so they can support their children along the way.

#### c. Elementary Update

- Maggie Maine will be joining our district as the new principal at Southern Bluffs elementary. She is currently working in the Winona MN schools. She will begin July 1st.
- 5 of our 9 Principals are experiencing End of Year celebrations for the first time due to the pandemic. This is exciting to have these celebrations back for our elementary students and families!
- High Performance Learning - Matt Hessel writing contest had 190 entries. Winners will be announced soon.
- Elementary is looking at new Math Curriculum. It has been about 10 years since we have had an update on this. We plan to pilot 2 curriculum options to see which will

be the package we purchase for the 2023 school year.

- Choice and Charter options are available to apply for through April 30th. We have to wait until that date as it is set by the state, not the district. May 2nd is the date that all applications will be reviewed and decisions will be made where space is available. The goal is to have notifications sent out mid-May to all applicants.

d. LPEF Update

- 20 Grants totaling \$20,000
  - Very competitive applications this round.
  - A great variety of initiatives happening in our schools.
- Thank A Teacher Day - Tuesday, May 3rd - LPEF delivers fruit and donuts to all schools for teachers. PTOs are encouraged to coordinate efforts to thank teachers that day.

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

- Transportation continues to be an issue for after school activities and sports. Students are having to leave school 2 hours early to get to local games just because there are not drivers available after school. Dr. Engel advised we are still regularly meeting with GoRiteway to identify problem areas and work on ways to fix them. This topic will be added to the next meeting. GoRiteway has made big efforts to attract drivers with higher wages and sign on bonuses but it has not resulted in enough.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:24pm.

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