



December 2016 Meeting Minutes

Educational Services Center, Bloomington Public School District
Bloomington, Minnesota
December 7, 2016
11:30 a.m.

Attendees: Mary Jo Bellinger (PB), Sue Bizal (HC), Sheri Brezinka (PTSA Council Treasurer), Roberto Cantu (Principal PB), Les Fujitake (Superintendent), Jennifer Hembd (OGE), David Heistad (Exec. Director, REA), Rick Kaufman (Community Relations), Molly Lueck (PTSA Council Secretary), Beth Maiwurm (JHS), Wendy Marczak (BFT), Cheryl Martin (PGP Coordinator), Kate Martin (Community Relations), Carissa Meierdierks Wall (NH), Paul Meyer (Principal OE), Debbie Miller (City of Bloomington), Jill Oldenburg (OM), Jennifer Oliva (RV), Todd Rockwood (UMN, School of Public Health), Tiffany Shermak (PTSA Council President), Jim Sorum (School Board), Heather Starks (PTSA Council VP), Jodi Syrjamaki (WB), Jason Thiel (WW), Charlotte Westby (IM).

Welcomed by Tiffany Shermak and introductions were made around the room.

Tiffany Shermak, facilitated the feedback loop:

1. Differentiated learning – concerns about this method of learning increasing student’s screen time. What is the difference between screen usage for learning and for fun? How much teacher instruction is being replaced by screen time? John Weisser will be contacted and report back to the group.
2. Parent Speaker Series Workgroup – Heather is still looking for volunteers to join this workgroup.

Les Fujitake, presented the Superintendent’s report:

1. The Board Legislative Committee is made of three Board Members. An Advocacy Council is being formed to solidify a legislative plan of action for Bloomington.
2. Student safety has been a concern in the district in light of the current activity in national politics. The Association of Latino Parents and Somali Parent Network have both met with Les and Eric Melbye and discussed their concerns.
3. Richfield voted to end their early childhood partnership with Bloomington on June 30th due to federal funding increases which will help Richfield expand their early childhood programs. The Adult Basic Education and Adults with Disabilities collaborations will not be affected.

Rick Kaufman, presented the community relations update:

1. Children’s Activity Project update by David Heistad and Todd Rockwood. This research project is a partnership between the U of MN and Bloomington Schools focusing on delayed injuries over time due to the current focus on sport specialization. The goal is to enroll current 1st, 3rd and 5th graders in the district and follow their health and well-being over the course of the next five years. Participation is completely voluntary and participants will not be compensated at the current time. Participants will submit a yearly health assessment as well as complete a written survey every three months. The first two years of this study will be pivotal in determining the viability of the data and whether the study will continue. Letters are currently in the mail to Bloomington students and will be sent out next year to the next group of 1st, 3rd and 5th graders. Future goals of the study would be to secure funding to provide translation to increase the pool as well as continue following students into young adulthood and possibly linking this information to student’s medical info. Contact David with any questions.
2. Realtor Workshop update by Kate Martin. Participation for the workshop consisted of thirty realtors and twenty extra guests. Attendees were given an update on Bloomington schools and a city presentation. This workshop will be repeated in the future.

Roberto Cantu, presented the Principal's report:

1. High school holiday shows are currently running. JHS band has returned from a trip to Hawaii. Middle school teacher teams collaborated on December 2nd. Elementary schools are paired up with a partnering elementary for collaboration. Teachers enjoyed family participation in conferences and were surprised by the high turnout despite the daytime hours.

Sheri Brezinka, presented the PTSA Council Treasurer's report:

1. Dues are still coming in.

Tiffany Shermak, presented the PTSA Council President's report:

1. We will look at Council Bylaw changes in January and vote on them in February.

2. Proposed Wellness Update by Debbie Miller. Debbie is the community health specialist in Bloomington and serves on the District Wellness Committee that was formed in April 2016 to make recommendations to the district. This committee has a representative from each school as well as one district principal. Federal policy guidelines will take effect June 2017 and our district is required to comply due to our participation in the federally funded lunch program. The committee is looking for current feedback from parents about events that happen in their schools involving food (parties, snacks, parent provided snacks, student fundraisers, etc.). Please go to <http://bit.ly/2g757v9> to provide your feedback as soon as possible so the committee can assemble an inventory of events and begin their work on recommendations.

Heather Starks, presented the PTSA Council VP's report:

1. Sarah Langworthy will be presenting "Brain Research in Children" at our next Parent Speaker Series event on January 19th. There will be childcare, translation and CEUs (2hrs) offered for this event. Please spread the word.

Cheryl Martin, presented the Personal Growth Plan update:

1. PGPs support students in identifying their milestones and navigating a path to graduation using academic indicators as well as life and social skills. The district's long term goal is to have all students using PGPs. All high schoolers are currently using PGPs for 2016-17. Work started in 2015-16 with 9th graders participating in seven Homeroom/Advisory PGP activities throughout the second half of the year and 10th-12th graders participating in three Homeroom/Advisory PGP activities throughout the third trimester. When surveyed, 74% of current 9th graders said PGPs have helped them gain a better perspective about their time in high school and 94% said PGPs are helping them learn about life after high school. Work has now started to implement PGPs with middle schoolers.

2. Naviance Family Connection is a comprehensive online resource to help students navigate their career and college search process. The district will be piloting Naviance this spring to help students with electronic transcripts and college applications. Natalie Goldberg at Jefferson and Brittany Pensis at Kennedy will be people to go to with questions at each school.

David Heistad, presented the Pathways to Graduation results:

1. Six year graduation rates are up. Graduation rates for Hispanics have seen an increase from 66% to 84% in two years. Reading and math scores are up for continuously enrolled elementary students.

Next meeting topic: High School Options: College and Career Planning, January 4th @ 11:30AM

Next meeting location: ESC Room 610A

Respectfully submitted by Molly Lueck, PTSA Council Secretary