

PAC Meeting

July 12, 2021

Beiriger Library

Attendees: Leah Dumezich, Toni Loomis, Lauren Blount, Sioban Amezcua, Carla Thompson, Julie Martoccio, Lori Rose, Meghan Engelbrecht, Afrika Powell, Jill Petersen, Rebecca Alvarez, Sheila Szo, Francisca Gonzalez, Angela Scieska, Annette Snyder, Erick Maciszak, Sam Hanson, Karen Parsons, Zella Garron, Sheila Prutsman.

Mrs. Dumezich introduced new Chief Financial Officer, Sherie Breitenbach, to the parents.

Future meeting dates were announced:

August 2, 2021

September 3, 2021

October 4, 2021

November 1, 2021

December 6, 2021

Dates for 2022 meetings will be confirmed at a later meeting.

A few highlights from last year were:

All departments were discussed.

Mrs. Leber discussed the different tests students must take and why they must take them.

INsource advocates for parents, helps them understand all components of IEP's.

Discussions about the difference between IEP & 504 were held.

ESSER money was used for our owl cameras and cleaning supplies.

ESSER 2 money will be used for stipends for employees and has allowed us to add 17 new teachers to reduce class sizes.

The range of class sizes are Note: These cannot always be upheld, but we are striving to meet these ranges:

K-2: 18-20

3-5: 20-24

Jr High: 24-28

Sr High: 28-30

Additional PE teachers have been added allowing 6, 7, and 8 graders to take a semester of PE classes. Advanced Physical Conditioning (APC) has been added back to the curriculum. That will be available for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and potentially 10<sup>th</sup> grade if spots are available.

The purpose of the PAC: The purpose is to move the district forward in a positive direction. This is an opportunity for parents to share concerns and ideas that can be shared with the administration and teachers' union. We are committed to continued improvement in our district!!

Parents shared that they feel like there has been a positive impact. Follow-up has been better as well as phone calls are being answered. Communication has been better; they feel it's a safe place to have honest dialogue.

CONCERNS:

Consistency in each grade level among teachers.

Building principals can work towards grade levels having consistent projects, fun initiatives, etc. Teachers are encouraged to tailor their teaching style and methods to the students in their classroom. One approach or “doing everything the same” does not allow the classroom teacher to provide student centered instruction. Teachers need to be allowed the freedom as professionals to meet the needs of each individual learner in their prospective classroom. We will work on consistent grade level projects and activities that students enjoy!!

Parents would like grade levels to plan projects and fun activities so all students in that grade can participate. Building principals will work to facilitate grade level initiatives and fun projects. That said, we also want to encourage our classroom teachers to meet the needs of each individual student. We do not want to utilize a “cookie cutter” approach to educating our students. Teachers need to have the flexibility to tailor their methods and approach to meet the needs of their classroom.

Parents would like more information regarding extra-curricular and field trips. We are excited to bring back field trip opportunities!! You can count on building principals supporting extra-curricular clubs, activities, and sports this year!! We are committed to sharing that information in a timely manner to our families.

Parents would like to see more clubs, sports, and after-school enrichment at the elementary level. Our building principals are excited to bring some opportunities back this year. Our athletic director is working to bring elementary athletic opportunities to our district.

Students and parents would like to see that menu items that are planned and advertised are available as advertised. Parents shared that kids get very excited about menu items, and at times last year the cafeteria would run out of an item, etc. Our food service director will work closely with each building to strive for consistency with menu items this year.

Parents would like communication in advance for extra-curriculars and transportation in case their student would like to stay after school. Our administrative team understands the need for proactive communication so that parents can plan accordingly to allow for after school opportunities for their children. We will work to get information to parents well in advance!

Concerns over schoology or iPad issues were discussed. Parents would like to come in for help, maybe during back-to-school night. **Our district website has several resources, training videos, and direct contacts in our district to provide individual support to parents who are struggling with technology and Schoology. We will continue to make staff available for parents that need additional training and support!**

A suggestion was made to have teachers provide general info on schoology or have a zoom connection or make a PowerPoint presentation to watch at a later time if parents are unable to attend conferences or back-to-school night. **We understand that not all work schedules allow for parents to attend back-to-school nights and parent/teacher conferences. It is our hope to get these dates and times out to families so that arrangements can be made as we know how important it is to have these conversations in person with our parents. Building principals will work with their teachers to provide introductions, videos, and communication that will provide parents with important information for the start of the school year.**

A parent noted Khan Academy being utilized to tech students and students becoming frustrated. Parent noted that the students need that direct instruction from the classroom teachers. **Direct instruction will be delivered by the classroom teacher. Technology and apps are infused into instruction as an additional resource. Please understand that last year was an unprecedented year.**

Special Education concerns noted: Speech services were an issue last year because we lost a speech pathologist. **We are excited to announce that GPS has just secured a full-time speech pathologist in our district with over ten years' experience in schools. She will oversee our speech language assistant at Wadsworth and provide direct support at Beiriger. We have an additional part-time speech pathologist that will be supporting the Jr-Sr high and Non-public schools.**

Bussing:

Bus app was determined to be too costly, however we do have software to send messages. Also, routes should be more efficient due to full routes.

Another concern was having students picked up or dropped off at grandparents' home or sitter, that will only be allowed if it's consistent for all 5 days, cannot pick and choose which day/which address. **We will continue to work with each individual family to provide transportation to our students. We understand that transportation is a concern for families, and hope that we will be able to expand transportation in the future if funding provides for that opportunity.**

#### Elementary Recess:

Parents expressed that unless a major rule violation has occurred, taking away recess should not be used as a punishment.

#### Elementary lunch:

Parents expressed that some students eat very early in the day. Parents asked if we could incorporate a snack time for students in grades K-5?

#### Traditional Learning Vs. Project Based Learning:

Parents expressed that each classroom needs to offer some traditional teaching methods that work, and still offer hand on and project-based experiences. Mrs. Dumezich agreed that an "all or nothing" approach is not what is best for students. Mrs. Dumezich expressed the need for "choice assessment". The group discussed that some learners need traditional seating while others benefit from flexible seating.

#### Other topics discussed:

#### Teacher retention:

Leah Dumezich shared that admin and union are working together to reestablish relationship. Title II stipend was paid to teachers this last school year. Some funds went to non-pub schools (Calumet Christian & St. Mary's). Title II funds are again projected to provide teacher retention stipends for the 2021-2022 school year.

Leah Dumezich started a partnership with PNW, and we will have roughly 17-20 student teachers.

District Website:

Parents noted that some information is buried under links. Suggestion was made to review other schools, look for user friendly websites and bring info to next meeting. Parents also advised to review PTC Facebook pages and Schoology for current/accurate information. Directory of employees/extensions and what they do to help locate information was reviewed by Leah Dumezich.

Scholarships & FAFSA nights would be helpful for parents and students throughout the school year.

Backpack program w/food on Friday's was an idea presented by a parent.

Social media:

Some parents noted lots of misinformation and negativity. Parents like having and being a part of a grade/class page where most accurate information would be provided. Parents do appreciate that the PTC posts Schoology messages on the elementary and middle/high Facebook pages. **The district utilizes Schoology as their primary platform for communication. We appreciate that the PTC pushes our Schoology messages out on Facebook pages. We agree that the "Class of" pages and parent support pages are helpful to our families and provide support to parents. Misinformation and/or negativity is typical on all social media platforms whether it pertains to schools, politics, or other topics. We want to continue to encourage positive communication within our district and to our community.**

Professional development should be provided for teachers to learn how to teach kids—encourage instead of discipline. **Teachers have received SEL information and trainings. Some of our teachers and staff have also completed positive intervention training. As a district, we will continue to provide training in this area. We also provide crisis prevention intervention training to all new teachers.**

Communicate with students that AP Bio does not equal Biology in college. **Our Director of Guidance will have these conversations with parents and students.**

Field Trips:

Can we rework field trips so that they are longer, due to the busses needing to be back to get afternoon routes done? **The Director of Transportation has been informed of this concern. We will do our best to allow for more time on field trips in the coming year.**

Dress code:

Can we allow sleeveless dresses, 4 finger rule? Patches ok on jeans, no holes? Dress code is enforced at Beiriger, but not consistently enforced at high school. No pajama pants needs to be enforced at all schools. **This discussion will be held with building principals and staff. If a change to our dress code is agreed upon, we will make parents and students aware of the change.**

Next meeting Monday, August 2, 2021 at 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m. in HS LGI room.