

Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council Meeting (Zoom)

March 8, 2021

Minutes

Members:

Dr. Robin Felty, Superintendent
Meghan Eckert (MS), Chairperson
Caryl Buffa (HS), Secretary
Anne Beecher (HS)
Lynn Fyfe (HS)
Renee Suydam (HS)
Heather Wright (HS)
Amy Barrell (MS)
Jill Speizer (MS)
Elizabeth O'Brien (MS)
Noe Juarez (MS)
Steve Kemper (LRIS)
Kim Romano (LRIS)
Cindy Zeyak (LRIS)
Dan Nyiri (Brecht)
Jill Milton (Brecht)
Julia Kamanda (Brecht)
Allyson Gibson (Bucher)
Jackie Wachinski (Bucher)
Michelle Rondinelli (Neff)
Denise Rosario (Neff)
Meredith Steidler (Neff)
Jenine Nicholas (Nitrauer)
Stephanie Ruth (Nitrauer)
Nancy Izquieta (Nitrauer)
Leslee Forman (Reidenbaugh)
Olivia Greuter (Schaeffer)
Jessica Kahler (Schaeffer)
Becky Trayers (Schaeffer)

Members Absent:

Rosamund Mische John (LRIS) – with regrets
Sharee Livingston Anderson (Bucher) – with regrets
Meghan Keller (Reidenbaugh) – with regrets

Guests: Dr. Dale Reimann, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Karen Nell, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction; Sharon Schaefer, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction;

Call to Order

- Meeting began 6:30 pm.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Minutes from January 2021 approved

III. Update on MS Construction Project – by Dr. Felty

- Project remains on track
- Dr Felty mentioned the Construction link on the MTSD page – it provides updates
- February 2021 updates were reviewed
- Planning for tours with 6th, 7th and 8th graders
- School song being created by Tri-M
- Mascot is being selected by student vote
- Competition for Naming the Courtyard
- School spirit piece about t-shirts for each grade

IV. Early Learning Initiatives– by Sharon Schaefer

- Early Learning Initiative Plan Power Point Presentation given to the group.
- Building a strong literacy foundation structurally, so will include interventions for all students even after enrolled in K-12.
- MTSD has an Early Learning Tab on the website
- Many ideas were sent to Sharon about where to share the word

- The idea of using Instagram as an outlet, engage more digitally especially now it might be hard to send out flyers in outlets
- Foundations of Literacy Courses for teachers through Professional Development

V. PTO Sharing – Reflections & Questions

- Jenine Nicholas – discussing communications, role of SLAC, purpose of SLAC.
 1. In some buildings PTOs are same group of people. The hope was with zoom it might allow for more people to join – but it hasn't happened. If not having new people join PTO communications and so it is the same going to and from SLAC to PTO then how is information communicated?
 2. It seems as though there are needs and potential to discuss these needs. The question might be addressed that it is the role of SLAC members that need to distribute information to the PTOs. Should this be addressed in by-laws as a specific role of the SLAC members? And if can't attend PTO meetings then they still need to disseminate information.
 3. How can we better look at ways to relay to families this is the SLAC committee and this is the purpose and a means to get your needs heard. There is no real formal means of communication.
 4. Minutes can't be distributed until voted on so that means information is delayed 2 months.
 5. Principals need to be aware that SLAC members aren't attending so can't distribute information.
 6. Some members do post on their school PTO web page to request questions, a few days before they may reach out and bring questions to the group.
 7. SLAC allows members to dispel rumors, which might not happen in PTO meetings with administration there.

8. The question was raised if anyone has objections to sharing the draft minutes prior to approval.
- PSSA & Keystones – Department of Education did not waive the requirements to administer the assessments. Wider timeline to give the assessments, but over a greater number of weeks is how the district is approaching from late April to late May.
 1. It will be addressed with Principals and then parents. They will not be pushed to the Fall. Final Exams will be waived as Midterms were in January. HS Remote students will have to come in at designated times in smaller groups. DOE stated that participation rate is waived this year due to Covid. Logistics are being planned based on number of students.
 - Parks & Rec and Summer Programming – no decision has been made as to what Parks & Rec will be occurring in the school buildings this summer. We are hoping to have that information soon.
 - Seniors – graduation and prom; they are working in discussions and directives given by the Governor. They are waiting for more directives.
 - Elementary Graduation Walks – can this be done outside the buildings? Dr. Reimann said it is on the list to consider.
 - HS is looking return to in-person on Wednesday because numbers are being reset with the deep cleaning.
 - CDC extended an option to align with a shorter quarantine but after consideration it was decided that it wasn't prudent to shorten the length and be safe with the longer requirements.
 - How to make all the yearbook be more inclusive for High School and 8th grade. How the lists seem not to fit in with DCI programs the District is adapting.
 - Schoology question and frustration of variation in use of it by teachers. Some post grades, some do not. Assignment dates, and late notifications. Concerns and who would parents address those concerns. Principals should be approached with questions like this.

There is a directive to make this more consistent so that it doesn't cause parent frustration. And the zeros shouldn't be there if it isn't graded yet.

- If a substitute doesn't know any of the technology there has been issues. It should be addressed with the principal or guidance to help alleviate the situation.
- New Development by Stoner Park, Stoner Farms, the question was raised what is Manheim Township SD going to do about impact? 114 total single detached homes and the district is planning for this. There are other developments going up, and will impact Nitrauer and Reidenbaugh. That is one reason Nitrauer did move the Spanish Immersion program out and gained 3 classrooms, for this purpose.
- Temporary drop-offs are going to remain until old Middle School is completed and once the old school is torn down they will be completing a loop.
- A parent wanted to know why contact trace was delayed by a week after exposure.
- Middle School students haven't heard about the things being done that were mentioned above. It was suggested Mrs Resh puts in her newsletter or bulletin.
- Middle Schoolers have not seen midterms or final exams and will there be planning for this when they get to High School. Additionally the Freshman class in HS has the same situation.
- Thanks were given for an amazing meeting and feedback from all sides.
- Why do they not have keyboarding for course selection was asked and keyboarding will be included in elementary schools to come.

VI. New Items That Changed Tonight.

- Without comments the group did agree by default to distribute draft minutes. Will be placing a watermark on the minutes.

- If PTOs aren't hearing from SLAC members they should address that with the Principal.
 - Principals will be contacted to add something about SLAC to their messages and newsletters this week.
 - <https://www.mtwp.net/about/superintendent/superintendents-lay-advisory-council/> is a good resource to explain what SLAC is.
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Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 8:42 PM, without a motion

Remaining 2020-21 Meetings

(whether in person or zoom will be determined at a later date)

May 5/10