

Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council Meeting

ZOOM

September 12, 2022

Minutes

Members:

Dr. Robin Felty, Superintendent

Nikita Nunemacher (Brecht), Chairperson

Caryl Buffa (HS), Secretary

Becky Harper (HS)

Laura Miller (HS)

Jill Speizer (HS)

Renee Suydam (HS)

Kristen Haase (MS)

Torie Hermann (MS)

Denise Rosario (MS)

Jen Riley (MS)

Jessica Kahler (LRIS)

Meghan Ryan-Keller (LRIS)

Jackie Wachinski (LRIS)

Abby Fiorentino (Brecht)

Mike King (Brecht)

Cynthia Brooks (Bucher)

Jadie Catania (Bucher)

Franchesca Sudduth (Bucher)

Kisha Johnson (Neff)

Rachel Levine (Neff)
Meredith Steidler (Neff)
Nancy Izquieta (Nitrauer)
Jenine Nicholas (Nitrauer)
Danielle Schmehl (Nitrauer)
Carolyn Garneau (Reidenbaugh)
Melissa Grosh (Reidenbaugh)
Madison South (Reidenbaugh)
Becky Trayers (Schaeffer)
Anu Varadarajan (Schaeffer)
Herlie Velez (Schaeffer)
Anu Varadarajan (Schaeffer)

Members Absent:

Holly Stockwell (LRIS) – with regrets

Guests: None

Call to Order

- Meeting began at 6:32 pm.
- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - II. Approval of the May 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - III. SLAC By-Laws
 - Dr Felty highlighted some important sections
 - 3 Consecutive misses could result in removal
 - Ability to disseminate information to PTOs

- Membership requirements

IV. New Business

- SLAC Chair
 - Nikita N volunteered and vote approved
- SLAC Secretary
 - Caryl Buffa offered the position was approved to remain as secretary
- Guidelines for Electronic Devices in Classrooms & Home
 - In 2021-22 many classrooms relied on technology in school when not all came back to school full time.
 - Based on past experiences District wanted to find a balance in 22-23 year.
 - Technology Dept was called upon for best practices guidelines for Electronic Devices usage in Classroom and Electronic Requirements at home
 - Computers, iPads, Whiteboards, Virtual Reality activities – want students to make deeper connections with instructions. Devices do not replace direct instruction by teachers.
 - Balancing effective responses and usages of electronic media at each grade level.
 - Fostering online safety & Digital Citizenship
 - Set clear, consistent and realistic expectations
 - Online & Offline experiences need to be balanced.
 - Questions came up to discuss if there is a set time allotted
 - Because of online textbooks (MS & HS) if there was a day requiring a majority of online work, teachers should decrease after school screen requirements.
- MTSD Comprehensive Plan & North Star
 - School Board approved Comprehensive Plan focused around our North Star.
 - Parents, Students helped develop the plan and each school wrote their own and it aligned with that of the District.
 - Comprehensive Plan will be on District Website shortly, from 2022-2025.
 - “To create a welcoming and supportive environment where all students, staff and families feel a sense of belonging.” Sense of belonging was a common thread throughout the process.
 - Reviewed Summary of the top 3 Goals and Action Steps.
 - New webpage for Comprehensive Plans and North Star Meetings are found on District Page, under District Tab. Advisory Committee and North Star Subcommittees will continue through this school year.

- Can we incorporate some of the Community Events and integrate some Cultural Events into school events. Taste of Bucher, Nitrauer Cultural Day, Brecht International Day had existed and could be incorporated so not to reinvent from scratch.

V. PTO Sharing PTO Sharing – Reflections & Questions

- Dress Code
 - LRIS – parent of a 6th grader was questioning dress code for back to school shopping. She wanted to know what is so different from 6th to 7th when they adopted a broader more reasonable dress code. Mr Gillis was receptive to comments but parent wanted to know if a consistent dress code across district could be addressed.
 - Dress code is more relaxed this year in MS & HS buildings. Discussions will continue.
- Bible2School Program
 - A religious release under PA Code students can leave school during the day for a specified # of hours for religious instruction. Upon written parental request a student may leave school for religious instruction. Excusal is limited to 36 hours per year. It is a protected activity under state law. Students leave during lunch and recess.
 - In 5 of 6 elementary schools at this time.
 - Meredith Steidler is available for questions from other SLAC members that may come up from PTOs.

Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 8:05 PM, with a motion

Minutes will be updated on District Website

Remaining 2022-23 Meetings all Zoom

11/14/22

1/9/23

3/13/23

5/8/23