

## Parent Advisory Council

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Kim Hagar, Steve Sexton, Laura Madson, Melissa Koppenhaver, Brian Murphy, Tony Johannes, Mike and Karen Lepisto, Tammy Scharenbroch

Members Absent: Jodi Hartlaub, Karen Wille, Tiffany Raffill-Pagel

Welcome: Co-facilitator, Brian Murphy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Diversity in Schools Dr. Blankenheim introduced members of the Raider Crew: Katie Thibeault, Hayden Smith, and Kaitlyn Horneck. Also present were Heidi Dorner and Dawn Mueller. Raider Crew members shared their norms, goals, mission and purpose which is “to create a safe, fun school in which people can feel 100% themselves and accepted.” There are currently 25 members in Raider Crew this year. New requirements were put into place which include fundraising, leadership conference, etc. The group is constantly growing and changing.

There are three pillars to Raider Crew: Safe Decisions, Community, and Mentoring.

**Safe Decisions** include: AODA, Vision Card, Post Prom.

**Community** includes activities such as: tailgating at homecoming, powder puff game, student band, Mario Kart tourney. Community Awareness includes: Being Successful, Rising Together, Tribe activities, and Inclusion activities. It is a process for building a community and was a result of Challenge Day.

**Mentoring** includes participation in summer training to learn how to work and communicate with others, helping at Freshman Orientation and Transition Day.

Crew members spoke briefly about Teaming for a Brighter Tomorrow and how high school leaders will be working with middle school leaders to enhance the program.

Dr. Blankenheim referenced how Raider Crew has changed the culture at the high school creating an environment where everyone is more open to each other. There is no fear in being judged for who you are. Challenge Day has helped to develop this supportive environment as well as providing a safe place to do it. What is the vision? To have this in place district-wide (ex: less fear when transitioning from Zielanis to Middle School). Need to value everyone’s opinion.

Dr. Blankenheim also spoke of their presentation to the school board during the transgender situation supporting all students who are different

and living out their mission of 100% acceptance for all. Students have a voice and we need to listen to them.

#### Next Agenda

Committee members reviewed the next agenda items: Social, emotional learning; consistent themes; supporting needs of kids and families; as well as Academic Career Planning.

#### Mission Statement

Mr. Murphy reviewed the proposed Mission Statements drafted by Kim Hager.

- 1) The mission of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to provide a positive voice to enhance the partnership between the Kiel Area School District, parents and the community while continually learning about how the district functions and issues facing the District.
- 2) The mission of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to learn about how the Kiel Area School District (KASD) functions and the issues facing district while also being a positive channel of communication between the KASD, parents, and the community.
- 3) The mission of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to act as representatives who provide a positive voice to enhance the communication and partnership between the Kiel Area School District (KASD), parents, and the community by continually learning about issues facing the KASD and how the KASD functions.
- 4) The mission of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to learn about how the Kiel Area School District (KASD) functions and issues facing the KASD for the purpose of providing a positive voice to enhance the communication and partnership between the KASD, parents, and the community.

Committee members shared their preference and made a few minor changes to #1. Below is the mission statement:

***The mission of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to act as a representative to provide a positive voice that enhances the partnership between the Kiel Area School District, parents and the community while continually learning about how the district functions and issues facing the District.***

#### Website

A link for the PAC has been added to the parent link on the district's webpage. An email will be created and added to the webpage to provide individuals the opportunity to submit questions.

#### Updates

Mr. Sexton sought clarification on questions directed to him regarding the transgender situation. Is it a law/rule that the district is required to

follow? The district is following its policy, Office of Civil Rights and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. Is the student allowed to use the shower/locker room of the gender they identify with? No, they only requested to use the bathroom with which they identify. Can this student switch bathrooms daily? No. Are transgender students required to use the unisex bathroom? No. Are there special rules for 1 or 2 students? No, these requests are reviewed and fulfilled on a case by case basis.

Dr. Blankenheim informed committee members of the school board vacancy.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. Just a reminder that a group picture will be taken at this meeting for the website.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.