

Parent Advisory Council

Monday, February 8, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Tony Johannes, JoAnne Enders, Brian Murphy, Karen Lepisto

Board Present: Dan Dietrich, Stuart Long, Mike Joas, Charles Hartmann, Bob Runge

Overview: Dr. Blankenheim provided an overview to the board members on the PAC committees previous meeting/discussion regarding public perception and their desire to meet with the Board for further discussion. Several questions were submitted by committee members. Dr. Blankenheim would state the question and provide board members an opportunity to respond.

Public Perception: **Question 1 - *“Understanding there are limited resources what are the Board’s top priorities in terms of future expenditures”***

Member Hartmann

- Spend least amount possible, but being effective with what spent
- Not be foolish with dollars
- Allocate dollars to projects (ie. roofs, boilers, etc.)
- Some technology - but not too much
- Referenced Donald Trump’s book “Crippled America”
 - Wisconsin schools “A failing grade”
 - Eliminate federal government from education
 - Standardized testing and evaluating teachers based on results
- Mandates cost districts too much money
- Lack of parental involvement
- No attendance at board meetings
- Wants input from parents
- Are there too many program offerings
- Believes in basics (3 R’s)
- Concerned that the computer is doing the thinking for students.....therefore not using their minds

Member Runge

- Continue heading in the current direction of Personalized Learning (PL) and Professional Learning Communities (PLC)
 - Provide structure and training for educators
 - Encourage all students to learn at their ability
- Enhance technology
- Ensure students are college and career ready
- Changes needed to school funding formula.....doesn’t see any legislators pushing this issue

Member Long

- Students are top priority
 - Need to be flexible, adaptable for the future
- Challenge is limited resources
 - need to look at untapped resources
 - community resources
 - senior citizen program providing tax credit
 - looks at the glass as half full
- Engagement by ALL (students, parents, community)
- Promoting KASD by word of mouth
- Grades, performance
 - Moving to standards-based grading
 - more about mastery vs the grade
 - measuring success via skills
 - educating parents on this change

Member Dietrich

- Providing students with best education within the limited resources
- Good reputation, need to increase effectiveness

Member Joas

- Great things happening, but weaknesses
- Areas in need of improvement (Tech. Ed.)
- More parent involvement
- Help board get feedback from parents
- Open to criticism

Member Runge asked committee members if they are aware of all the good things going on (ie. communication, technology, robotics, etc)? Mr. Murphy indicated that Dr. Blankenheim was doing an unbelievable job of communicating. Mrs. Lepisto indicated that parent engagement works two ways and that there are many ways of communicating, depending upon your audience (ie. Freshman Orientation). Mr. Runge would like to see PAC expand and help provide input/feedback to the Board. Need to communicate better with those who are not parents as education impacts everyone.

Question 2 - *What has/will the Board do to advocate for additional funding for public education*

Mr. Johannes told the Board they are selling themselves short by not advocating. He shared how the Sheboygan School Board advocates and is effective.

Member Runge

- Taxpayers feel too much is spent on education and do not want their taxes increased

Member Joas

- Be more efficient
- More community engagement
- Need to determine dollars to specific areas
- No plan causes uncertainty in the community

Dr. Blankenheim expressed that “Advocate” is the key word and feels that taxpayers would agree if they understood the investment.

Member Long

- Need to rise above the politics and advocate
- Stop the posturing
- Best interest of students and community
- Training vs skills (generational perceptions)
- Advocate for our students

Mrs. Enders referenced that it’s not about the money, it’s about communication and the people. As board members you need to go out and share information and listen to what the public has to say. You need to support each other and do what’s best for kids. You do not need to agree, but you need to support. She reminded board members that technology is the way of today. We need to begin a grassroots effort to get to parents.

Member Dietrich agreed and asked for suggestions on how to do this. Mrs. Enders suggested asking local employers if we can attend employee meetings to share information. Need to reach out to the elderly, they are very interested and want to know.

Member Long indicated that the Board needs to meet groups where it is meaningful to them. The Board also needs to be unified and have common goals. A lot of work needs to be done at the board level.

Question 3 - “What does KASD look like in 5 years? 10 years?”

Member Long

- Students being better advocates for themselves
- Parents advocates for their students
- Students/parents respected by staff
- Staff respected by the public
- Everyone working together respectfully

Member Runge asked committee members if the board was functioning as one unit. All the committee members said no.

Mrs. Enders

- Consensus at meeting then a different message is being shared with the public by individual board members

- No respect for each other
- No unified front

Mrs. Lepisto

- Lack of respect to each other is preventing community involvement

Member Runge inquired as to how they are getting this information:

- newspaper, community, board members talking against each other

Mr. Johannes referenced the pool referendum and how individual board members were speaking out against it. Only the president should speak on behalf of the Board. Do not air your dirty laundry in public. Member Hartmann asked if the Board should just rubber stamp everything, even if they don't agree. Mrs. Enders indicated its not about voting the same, its about supporting the final decision or saying nothing. Everything you do should benefit the kids.

Member Dietrich

- Referenced 5 and 10-year facility plans
- Strategic Plan and its focus being key to moving the district forward

Mrs. Enders asked board members if they enjoy the strategic plan.

Members Dietrich, Long, and Runge indicated yes. Member Hartmann indicated it was his first year on the Board and he really doesn't know much about it. Member Runge noted that without a plan, we don't know where we are going as a district. It's about expectations and results and students becoming productive members of society. For member Long its about progression and growth. Having teachers in the community and the community in our schools. Everyone working together. Member Joas spoke to all businesses having a plan, but the problem is the Board and District Administrator are always changing. Each one comes in with their own ideas. He noted that he is anxious to see the plan. Member Long reminded the group that the strategic plan is a living document and that the committee has set two goals: personalized learning and communication. The District is currently in the implementation stages of the plan.

Mr. Murphy challenged the board members to work together for every student leaving behind any political bias.

All committee members thanked the board for their time and encouraged them to become a united front even if they don't always agree.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in March. We will solicit committee members for dates.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.