

Parent Advisory Council

Wednesday, September 28, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Neely Hechel, Tony Johannes, Brian Murphy, Joanne Enders, Laura Madson, Stephanie Plehn, Mike Lepisto, Karen Lepisto

Members Absent: Tammy Scharenbroch, Mary Binversie, Kerri Vogel, Sheila Schmitt, Tabitha Walsdorf, Jodi Hartlaub, Judy Kuhn, Tiffany Raffill-Pagel

Welcome: Dr. Blankenheim welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reviewed the agenda and supporting documentation provided to each committee member.

Introductions: Committee members introduced themselves, shared why they're interested in serving on the committee, as well as their expectations for the year.

Why Serve:

- Part of bigger picture
- Have a voice
- See where education is going to go
- Be involved
- Get to know people, culture
- Interested in learning
- Can't complain if not involved
- Concerned about where education is going

Expectations

- Add value as a business person
- Prepare students for what comes next
- Learn about other schools
- Student outcome

Purpose: Dr. Blankenheim explained the purpose of the committee is to:

- Expand/extend the District's partnership with families and the community
- Provide parents a voice
- Increase the dialogue between the schools, parents, and community
- Learn together
- Find out what parents want to know
- Align administrator and board decisions with parent vision
- Create a district where everyone wants to be

This committee will look at what needs improvement (may be doing well, but something is missing). She asked committee members to speak candidly and honestly.

Gallery Walk:

Committee members participated in a Gallery Walk activity to generate ideas on “Internal” and “External” strengths and areas of improvements as well as support structures and barriers out of our control. Below are the ideas generated from this activity:

Internal Strengths

- Teacher’s involvement
 - Communication (apps, emails, notes)
 - Passion
 - Talent
- Parent Opportunity for Involvement
- Small District = Opportunity for students to try different things
- eSchool
- Continuity of Leadership (tenure)
- Extra-curricular activities
- Safety of students and faculty
- Academic strengths in certain areas (math, reading, etc)
- Family feel
- Monday afternoon meetings
- Psychologist at Zielanis

Internal Areas of Improvement

- Technology
 - Lagging behind
 - Assessments
- Air conditioning or temperature control
 - Zielanis
 - High School Auditorium
- Facilities: Athletic
 - Track
 - Football
 - Pool
 - Gym Space
- Time for lunch
- Communication @ Middle and High Schools
 - Big difference between elementary and middle school
 - Use of apps to send reminders
- Academics
 - Science @ elementary
 - Lack of science homework (what about those students who like science?)
- Expectations of students @ elementary
 - What is the goal of the activity and what should students know (benchmark, curriculum, performance)

- Parental involvement
- Community involvement
- Referendum "Pitch" - community buy-in
- PBIS
 - Student anxiety over consequences
 - Super Flex Theme
 - Provide parents with resources to incorporate at home
- Elementary level after-school activities (ie. sports)

External Support Structures

- Zielanis PTP
- Kiel Community Library
- Rec sports - Middle and High Schools
- Junior Achievement
- Full Circle Care
- Parents
- School Board
- Kiel Youth Theater
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Parent Advisory Council
- Lions Club (community organizations)
- Business support
- City Government
- Technical Schools
 - Apprenticeships
- Teachers
 - Above and beyond

External Barriers out of our Control

- Fund availability dollars/revenue controls
- Small community
 - with advanced age
 - small tax base
 - school of choice
- Aging buildings, pool, technology, trade opportunities
- Public perception/support
- State mandates and feds
- Small, but active, groups get involved
 - Still lots of people not involved

Committee members, then identified priority areas that they would like to learn more about:

- 1) Technology (6)
- 2) Athletic Facilities (5)
- 3) Public Perception/Support 3)
- 4) Elementary level after school activities (ie. sports) (2)

- 5) Parental Involvement (1)
- 6) Community Involvement (1)
- 7) eSchool (1)
- 8) PBIS (1)

Next Meeting: The next two meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st and Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m., in the high school library. Agenda topic will be Technology in October and Facilities in December.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.