

Parent Network Meeting
March 1, 2016
Central Administrative Office

Attendance: Sharie Sinson, Jenni Swanson-Riar, Valle Moretti, Mark Hansen, Crystal Topp, Heidi Kohler, Linda Gildea, Chandra Gollapudy, Kristin Westrick, Tammy Bartowitz, Sylvia Pasquini, Christine Birt, Chris Thompson.

Sylvia Pasquini: Welcomed new guest, Jenni Swanson-Riar to meeting. Sylvia invited all to attend the Listening Session meeting on Sunday, March 13th hosted by Congressman, Jim Sensenbrenner. This meeting is an opportunity to voice concern to the state elected officials regarding state funding for our schools.

Mark Hansen shared his view that Elmbrook School District is not fighting the state funding formula but looking for additional funding. School funding decisions begin in July. We are asking what the best education is for all students. We are looking for ways to do some things differently or better as we try to create a vision for WI schools. We need to contact our state legislators directly because silence is a sign of support in their eyes. Principals and Superintendent can educate families around an issue. All are welcome to attend the Community Legislative Engagement (CLE) meeting.

Sylvia Pasquini (President): Sylvia gave an update from Jenny Heckman on the suicide prevention program that was geared toward students and held on February 23rd at St. John Vianney. No high school students were in attendance.

Sharon Lynn Wilson Center asked if PN can promote any of its programming. Those enrichment programs are already promoted through each of the Elmbrook Schools. Parent Network received information on an education program designed for children and young adults on the Autism Spectrum titled, "Islands of Brilliance." Information was directed to Tanya Fredrich, so she can disseminate that information most effectively.

Planning Meeting for Parent Network is April 12th from 9AM – 1 PM in board room at CAO. Bring your ideas for topics and speakers. Please extend invite to others. We welcome at-large members for Parent Network. If you are unable to attend weekday monthly meetings, you can still be involved in the program planning. An Evite will be sent out shortly. Please RSVP so we know how many to plan for lunch as this will be provided by Parent Network. Question was raised if we should have a welcome coffee at Panera Bread to see if we can attract new members to PN before our planning meeting. This has been offered in the past with mixed results. Overall consensus is it may not be worth the time and effort; however, members are supportive of the idea if we want to give it another try in an effort to solicit additional program ideas.

Suicide Prevention Training Program to be offered –QPR training (Question, Persuade, Refer). A handout on this program was circulated. Tanya Fredrich is looking for parent volunteers who are interested in attending a training program on April 18th. The goal is to have a group of staff and parents (3-4) attend the Gatekeeper Trainer Certification Course. This will require those volunteers to attend the April training program to get certified. Certification will be good for 3 years. These certified volunteers will then offer training programs for all Elmbrook district and community parents at school sites. The goal is to have one adult in every district family attend the 1.5 hour suicide prevention

informational program so we as a community are more equipped to look for warning signs and learn how to respond and react in a helpful manner so we can help save lives and prevent suicidal behaviors.

Chris Thompson, Technology Chief Information Officer: The district is looking into using My School Account for communication as well as exploring other avenues for a database. We are being forced to move to a new /revised website platform. We are currently rethinking communication strategies as a district.

We are still figuring out the IPAD/Strategy for K-2. In grades 3-high school there is a 1-1 ratio with Chromebook technology. How are we leveraging these devices? How do you use these effectively in the classroom? How does technology support work in the classroom? Question was raised about students using Chromebooks during school to shop, play video games or watch videos. We continue to have conversations on effective use and abuse of devices. We continue to train students and teachers. We have monitoring technology tools that are being used. There have been more Chromebook breakages in our district than in others. Students and families need to understand that their child is the owner of this device and proper care is expected. More online books are available as well as digital resources.

Mark Hansen, Superintendent (continued): Mark pulled up the District Website on the SMARBOARD to review how families can get board meeting minutes year by year so they have a resource to go to for the facts. This was brought to our attention as discussions are taking place by the Swanson Enrollment Analysis Committee and the Enrollment Balancing Task Force. We want to be sure the public has the facts not misinformation. This is an emotional issue for many and we are sensitive to that history. The website has up to date information posted on Enrollment and Management strategies. It is important for our community to understand that the distribution of enrolled Elmbrook Students has changed and how best to accommodate those changes. Families who are in certain tracts of the Swanson community will be eligible to volunteer to attend another elementary school. You are able to view the community section on the website under the Enrollment Balancing Task Force to see those tracts. Another way to get accurate information is to view the Board meetings, specifically the board section so you do not have to watch the entire meeting.

We will not have to go to referendum to approve funding for the proposed improvements to Swanson to handle the increased enrollment. The cafeteria was never expanded when the earlier expansion to Swanson took place. The cafeteria needs to be in line with the earlier improvements so as to safely accommodate 800 students.

Board Reports

Treasurer (Tammy Bartowitz): PN donations for all the schools have been received. Checking balance: \$5860.85.

Director of Communications (Heidi Kohler): We looked at PN page on Elmbrook website and how it is set-up. Heidi will be posting meeting minutes under documents. We discussed getting those minutes approved by the board before the next meeting, so we can get this information out to the public in a timelier manner.

EPLC luncheon & Candidate Forum update (Kristin Westrick): The EPLC luncheon was well-attended. Many good ideas shared regarding fundraising. Kristin reminded us about the Candidate

Board Forum on March 22nd from 6Pm – 7:30 PM. She is asking for candidate questions to be sent to her ahead of time. She needs our help with coming up with a number of questions to fill the time. Digital Tattoo planning will take place after Candidate Forum.

Hospitality (Linda Gildea): Survey reports were presented from those collected at the movie Mondays. (See attachment)

Secretary (Sharie Sinson): There were a few corrections to be made to the February meeting minutes. Those will be handled and update minutes will be sent via email to all PN members. When the minutes have been approved, they will be posted on the PN website. The goal will be to get future minutes approved prior to the next meeting via email, so they can be available to the public in a timelier manner.

VP Programs (Valle Moretti): Simple Truths will be shown March 14th at Dixon Elementary from 7 PM – 8:30 PM. Babysitting will be offered and reservations will be requested prior to the event. Flyers are being sent out electronically as well as being posted at schools, preschools, and public areas. We need to get electronic email into the hands of all PTO Presidents ASAP. This program is geared toward elementary school aged parents. Silvia will purchase gift certificates for speakers.

Old Business (Silvia Pasquini):

Destination Imagination-This is a project based learning program and a Dixon parent has applied for a teacher grant from EEF to initiate this program at Dixon.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharie Sinson