

Parent Network Meeting
February 2, 2016
Central District Office

Attendance: Silvia Pasquini, Kristin Westrick, Heidi Kohler, Tammy Bartowitz, Chandra Gollapudy, Crystal Topp, Jenny Heckman, Mark Hansen, Tanya Fredrich, Ann Schuelke, Tara Coakley, Christie Birt, Linda Gildea, Sharie Sinson.

Welcome Guest: Jenny Heckman, Brookfield Central High School parent, professionally a psychologist, who attended the Parent Network meeting to discuss youth mental health.

Jenny is one of the organizers of a gathering being held this evening at St. John Vianney to address the recent tragedies in our school district. The topic is "**Let's Talk: Envisioning a Future without Suicide.**" A brief (10-15 minute) presentation on the changing landscape of youth/young adult suicide will take place at the beginning, followed by dialogue aimed at hearing the current needs from the perspective of parents. This is not a faith-based gathering and is quite grass-roots.

The hope is that this gathering will lead to further dialogue, and provide information helpful in the development of suicide education and prevention. An additional desire is that collaboration will begin among families, schools, churches, medical and psychological communities.

Jenny stressed that every case of suicide is multi-dimensional and highly complex. The hope is to bring together our community in an effort to disseminate information to our families and students. We need an across system approach and providing these meetings is a step in this direction. On February 23rd from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm at St. John Vianney a program will be held for high school students. Students will discuss how to watch out for their peers, what language to use when talking to a friend, how to communicate to get help, and discuss choosing life for oneself.

Jenny Heckman also mentioned Dr. Brian Fiddlin's program on The Anatomy of the Adolescent Brain, organized by the KM Parent Resource Network, on February 10th from 6:30-8:30pm at Cushing Elementary School, Delafield. Dr. Fiddlin looks at impulsivity in younger people and living in a culture of immediate gratification which can lead to making bad decisions.

The information about these programs has mainly been communicated to Central parents, but they are looking to spread the word to BEHS families as well as the surrounding community.

Praying Parents is another group that has formed from BEHS parents which meets at Brookfield Christian School.

Mindfulness, What's next? (Silvia Pasquini): Silvia talked about her visit to the Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison which looks at the research of neuroscience. Dr. Richard Davidson studies what is going on with our children's brains. Silvia toured the center and posed the question to the group as to how to put mindfulness into the school curriculum? Silvia expressed need for parent education and teacher training.

Mark Hansen: We need to proceed cautiously and carefully. Is it too soon to move forward with this type of programming? Are we as a district ready for this? What is the right approach for our students and families? Best timing? Tanya and Mark are learning about cluster suicides from other communities that have unfortunately had to deal with a similar situation.

The high schools will be presenting a Hub mini lesson on February 22nd about this topic. Parents will receive a link on February 12th with a letter describing the program and a slide document as to the topics that will be addressed. A follow-up email will also be sent to parents once the program has been presented to the high school student body.

Tanya and Mark have been talking with Northshore who went through a similar situation. A group called RedGen came out of their experience which has become the model for caring for their students. RedGen e is sharing their journey with the Elmbrook School District.

Board Updates:

Treasurer (Tammy Bartowitz): Brookfield East and PPMS donations received. Movie Night donation of \$11 was received. Checking account balance: \$5262.17

Hospitality (Linda Gildea): No Report

Valle Moretti- No Report

President (Silvia Pasquini): Police Department drug box collection. There will be a box available for prescription drugs. Send an email to the alderman to support this suggestion. April 12th will be the PN program planning meeting. Please join us for this important meeting.

Treasurer (Sharie Sinson): January meeting minutes approved.

District Updates:

Mark Hansen: Shared budget approval process. Structural deficit is \$100K -\$200K. We have stabilized this by the increase in enrollment. We are expecting the trend to continue in this direction.

Swanson cafeteria needs to expand. When the school was expanded years ago, the gymnasium and cafeteria remained the same size. The proposal is a \$2.3 million expansion to the gym/cafeateria which will bring the school in line with what it needs to have for the enrollment numbers.

Next school year will look at redistricting Swanson. Housing sales continue to rise. There was an unexpected rise in enrollment by 100 children. Two phases in the plan to resolve the overcrowding issue: 1. Fix/expand cafeteria 2. Rebalance enrollment.

State Funding Formula: State Aide Elmbrook School District receives is 7% -10%. The rest of funds come from taxes on homeowners. Changing formula will not help us at a state funding level. We have the 3rd highest property values in the state due to homes and retail. We lost \$17,500 in state aid to private

schools which is about 1.5 students. Waukesha School District got hit the hardest which resulted in a substantial loss of money.

School Board Updates-Kathryn Wilson

Kathryn was touched by the level of care and professionalism the faculty exhibited after the recent losses. She applauded their efforts to tend to the needs of our children.

Swanson is at about 90% capacity. There are still educational spaces available; however, there is a lot going on in the classrooms. The question is what is the right capacity for the classroom? Example of size in 3rd grade classrooms in district: 17/18 students at Dixon VS 25 students at Swanson.

Mark Hansen Continued:

Mark expressed that despite the bigger class size at Swanson the MAPS scores show the staff is going above and beyond.

School calendar was brought up at Principal chat and by PN again. Mark explained there is a call to action for our State Legislature to allow us to determine when to start school. Right now we need 40 – 45 days of instruction to be considered a term. Many have asked the district to align school calendar so the breaks allow students to take exams prior to holidays/vacation. How do we tackle school start date? What kind of assignment is a quality homework assignment over break? We will never satisfy all the parents. Can we designate spring break regardless when religious holidays fall? Many families like to celebrate the Christian holidays over break.

Tanya Fredrich: Elmbrook School district joined Parent United which offers resources to the community. Cost of joining is \$2500. The executive board is now looking at national speakers.

Some suggestions:

Steered Straight

Wellness of Family-Dr. Finlann, local psychologist

Mindfulness/Stress Reduction

Renee Brown (very expensive speaker, famous) trying to connect with other districts to reduce costs.

President (Sylvia Pasquini): Silvia shared highlights of the small group of 9-10 parents who met to discuss Parent Backpack and share strategies. She spoke of a personal story from a member of the Parent Backpack group who underwent a major change as he had put much pressure on his child. Providing these kinds of venues can be a powerful opportunity for change and growth which is why we value the programming our group organizes, even though attendance is not as strong as we would like.

Program Update- Movie Mondays (Valle Moretti):

We really benefit from an email reminder to our community. The second movie had 13 in attendance which included only 3 non Parent Network members. No students attended. An email blast the Thursday or weekend before our next movie showing, The Mask You Live In, was requested to boost attendance. Simple Truths will be shown at Dixon on Monday, March 13th at 7pm. Speaker will be Michelle Eimon from the GALs Institute.

EPLC Winter Forum (Kristin Westrick): The meeting will be held, February 23rd from 9 am-11:30am at Central Office in the board room. This will be a forum for fundraising in our district. Online Registration has significantly diminished PTO directory sales which in the past has been a major source of funding for PTOs. We will brainstorm and share other avenues for raising funds. How can Booster clubs, PTOs, EEF, and all other groups work together to fundraise? An email invite to meeting will be sent shortly.

Board of Education Candidate Forum: March 22nd from 6PM -7:30 PM in the board room at Central District Office.

Kristin is looking for questions, so send them her way. Glen Allgaier is running uncontested. Gary Jones and Linda Boucher are running against one another for the At-Large Seat.

Digital Tattoo 2.0: We should move our Digital Tattoo program to April. Should we look at the CNN documentary and change up our programming a bit? Many new apps are available to our children. We moved to discuss this program in greater detail at March meeting.

New Business (Silvia Pasquini):

Destination Imagination program will be discussed at next meeting. We will know much more information after EPLC meeting. Parents are trying to bring it to Dixon. Burleigh implemented the program years ago.

International Families Welcome: Swanson PTO is providing programming on diversity and embracing different traditions and cultures. Parent Network might consider planning something on this next year. Let's discuss organizing a program at our planning meeting.

Old Business: Event Bright account is active. PN should try to use it for next movie night to see if it will positively impact attendance.

Meeting adjourned: 11:23 am

Respectfully submitted,
Sharie Sinson

****A response from Lynne Thomas, a member of the Swanson Enrollment Analysis Committee, was received after the February 2, 2016 minutes were posted. The response in its entirety has been included as an addendum to the meeting minutes. Kathryn Wilson, school board member and Parent Network member, also clarified her comment that Swanson is at 90% capacity. Her response has also been included in its entirety in the addendum.**

ADDENDUM:

As a member of the Swanson Enrollment Analysis Committee, I want to make two clarifications to the report regarding Swanson.

The following capacity numbers have been reported for our school:

Functional Capacity: 686 students

Design Capacity: 762 students

Capacity Based on Gross Building Square Footage w/o Cafeteria Expansion: 767 students

Capacity Based on Gross Building Square Footage w/Cafeteria Expansion: 800 students

Capacity Based on Board of Education Class Size Goals: 767 (current 32-section model) and 864 (proposed 36-section model)

It should be noted that, at our current enrollment of 814 students in our current model of 32 sections, Swanson is anywhere between 106-119% capacity by any of the applicable measures, not around 90% as reported.

It should also be noted that the formation of multiple additional sections at Swanson will result in the loss of one or both computer labs, one or two breakout/MakerSpaces, and potentially our teacher's lounge. It is possible that some of these spaces may be relocated to modulars if those are approved by the board.

I'd be happy to answer any further questions people have regarding this situation and/or the data that has been examined throughout this process.

Lynne

Kathryn Wilson: Clarification of Kathryn's comments on the enrollment increase we are experiencing at Swanson. Third-Friday data indicates that overall elementary enrollment in the district is virtually unchanged since 2011. Instead, enrollment patterns have shifted to the Southwest quadrant of the district.

There are many ways to consider capacity, and figures will vary with the criteria used for the calculation. My statement that Swanson is at about 90% of capacity was based on walking the building to see available space and three analyses:

- The Elementary School Capacity Subcommittee of the 2009-2010 Enrollment Management Study Team placed Swanson's capacity at 863 students (as reported to the Board of Education on Feb 23, 2010.)
- The October 19, 2015 report to the Swanson Enrollment Analysis Committee, page 5, that calculates Swanson's maximum capacity at 955 with an adjusted capacity of 860.
- A subsequent analysis using a tool provided by Eppstein Uhen Architects that indicates Swanson's maximum capacity is 901 students.

These numbers are not identical, but they suggest to me that the 2009-2010 study is in the ballpark, and 90% capacity is a safe figure.