

## **CDSP General Meeting**

**35 Leroy Street**

**October 4, 2018**

**In attendance:** Julie Best, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Anne Fox, Stacey Tie, Beth Lane, Kate Mastellone, Justine Mullin, Hope Barton, Alex Hall, Alyson Johnson, Ann Gallagher, Mia Mihopoulos, Amy Daniels, Hallie Palen, Brigitte Mansourian, Lori Olson, Tiffany O'Connor, Caroline Comfort, Mekhala Attonito, Jennifer Woodbury, Cristi Mohr, Leila Buckjune, Michele Treacy, Shelly Skougland, Amy Zerbe, Kelly Dupont, Jennifer Morici, Sarah Madson, Katie Stein, Tara Ochman, Kadi Lublin, Adrienne Kelly, Joanna Walsh, Jill McCammon

Meeting called to order by Sarah Parent at 9:32.

Introductions

Vote to approve minutes from May 2018. First motion by Stacy Tie, Beth Lane seconded.

### **Thriving Youth Task Force Presentation**

Janet King, Director of Community Fund, gave background and history of survey. Complete survey results will be rolled out at Darien Public Library on October 23 at 7 pm. Susana Lewis and Alyson Johnson gave a brief overview on survey results from the perspective of children and parents, respectively.

### **Co- Chair Update**

Julie and Sara gave an overview of the mission of CDSP. CDSP exists to help, advise, facilitate, oversee the workings of the PTOs.

#### *Superintendent Search/Personal Update*

Superintendents focus group for CDSP members will be held on Thursday at 8:30. Group was asked to encourage parents in each school to join a focus group and/or fill out survey. PTO chairs were encouraged to blast survey link and dates for focus groups.

Hindley principal has officially resigned. The interim principal will stay in place and the search for a permanent replacement will begin in the Spring.

Marc Marin has resigned. In-district staff are carrying his work forward this year. The search for a replacement is to begin in the Spring.

#### *Ox Ridge Project*

BOE has gone to the Selectmen to ask them to create building committee for Ox Ridge. They may be looking for parent representation on that committee. Anyone who is interested (particularly parents with building experience or similar) are encouraged to reach out to Jamie Stevenson.

#### *AC/Electrical Project*

Board of Ed will go to the Board of Finance to ask them for funds off cycle to upgrade electrical panels at Holmes, Royle, and Hindley. The main purpose is to have the opportunity to add air-conditioning to rooms in those schools. (There were funds not spent from last budget; those funds were returned to the town as part of the usual process.) District/BOE is getting hard estimates on panels before going to BOF. At this point, it doesn't appear that PTOs will be funding this; however, we will need to get a lot of parental support for this.

#### *Library Update*

Creative Library Concepts group is drawing up plans for each school. In-district staff is examining curriculum as it aligns to this work. Unclear if PTOs will be asked to fund any. This will most likely be a 2 year project and may not be included in this year's budget. It is still unclear if PTOs will be asked to fund any of this project, although that seems likely.

#### *Lunch Protocol*

An announcement was made by Dr Landon that parents would no longer be able to stop by and have lunch with their elementary students. This procedure has been in place at some schools already. The main reason was to allow for natural social emotional exchanges, which is an ongoing academic goal. Additionally, it is for security and confidentiality of students. Dr. Landon said it was a unanimous decision among all principals. Amy Daniels asked if there could be one day a month where parents can come in. Dr. Landon suggested that parents go back to their building principal who will key turn that information to other principals and administration.

#### **Current Priorities for 2018-19**

These will be refined by exec board and all members of CDSP

- Looking at budgets and appropriate reserve funds.
- Examine priorities/ideas for spending down excess reserves.
- Create closer working group for elementary schools to share ideas/best practices.

#### **CDSP Role Definition project**

There is a need to have discussion to further define this role. How can a CDSP rep best be used? Should a rep be on the Exec Board? One idea is to have a smaller work group to examine this; let Julie and/or Sara know if you are interested.

#### **Community groups update**

*DEG:* CDSP will not be funding this as a whole, but individual PTOs may choose to work with them. Please remember that DEG is not allowed to be in the classroom, but that Earth Week, student council activities, etc. are permissible.

*Reiss Fund:* Last year, CDSP agreed on conditional approval for funding based on Reiss being able to get new co-chairs. Co-chairs have been found so PTOs may see the request for agreed upon funding come in. The Reiss Fund will come and present at a future meeting.

*Other outside groups:* There are many outside groups that are looking to work with PTOs, provide programming, etc. Some reminders regarding that:

- Make sure that if you are working with outside groups they don't jeopardize 501C status.
- Always loop in the building principal.
- If suggested programming is district vs building focused, please check with CDFSP co-chairs.
- Outside groups should not be running curriculum-based programming.

### **Other updates**

Treasury: Anne Fox has created 'cheat sheet' for PTOs as guideline for our sales tax obligations.

Nominating: The exec board has two open positions—Budget Chair, Special Projects Chair. Contact Beth Lane if you have suggestions.

Special Education: Every school has special ed reps. Stacey sent along job description and workflow in August. Contact Stacey if you need her to resend.

Motion to adjourn at 12:10. Stacey Tie first, Beth Lane second.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Piorkowski.