



## **CDSP General Meeting Minutes**

**35 Leroy Ave.**

**December 6, 2018**

**In attendance:** Julie Best, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Stacey Tie, Kate Mastellone, Justine Mullin, Hope Barton, Alex Hall, Alyson Johnson, Jennifer Sherman, Ann Gallagher, Mia Mihopoulos, Amy Daniels, Lori Olson, Jennifer Woodbury, Cristi Mohr, Ashley Hinchman, Leila Buckjune, Michele Treacy, Shelly Skogland, Amy Zerbe, Joanna Walsh, Tara Ochman, Katie Stein, Kadi Lublin, Jennifer Morici, Sarah Madson

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

Vote to approve minutes from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 by Beth Lane; seconded by Stacey Tie.

### **Presentation by Darien Human Services**

Ali Ramsteck, Director of Health and Human Services, came to speak about the organization. It supports ALL Darien residents including, but not limited to, families with low income and the elderly. Some examples of the work they do include: running a "Back to School" program providing backpacks and supplies for students who need them; running an Energy Assistance Program; adopting up to 60 families at Christmas to fulfill some 'wish list' items and partnering with Person to Person to provide Thanksgiving meals.

This is an organization that thrives on donations and has some very successful partnerships with schools. Examples include:

- Drives for items for the Community closet
- Donating tickets to the Pumpkin Carnival and Hindley Happening
- Donating extra spirit wear.

### **School Updates**

- The school report is providing limited information. Amy Daniels suggested that having Elementary PTO sub-meetings may be reducing feedback.

- *Tokeneke*: The Hour of Code was held a week earlier this year because of conference week. 'Like' showing was attended by more than 150 people.
- *Royle*: Held luncheon on 14<sup>th</sup> focused around math. Youth Asset meeting was well attended.
- *Ox Ridge*: Planning a special education coffee the week of December 10.
- *DHS*: Holiday luncheon tomorrow for teachers and staff. The recent meeting featuring a panel of returning college students, who came back to reflect on the college application process, was very well received and attended.

## **Co-chair Updates**

*Budget initiatives*: Dr Landon has presented major initiatives to the BOE including psychologists (an additional FTE at each elementary school.) Tara Ochman indicated that this is still in preliminary discussion stage and not in part of the adopted budget yet.

*AC/Electrical project*: Board of Finance is expected to discuss this on December 18 at 7:30 pm. Public comment will be allowed; CDSP will comment in support of this initiative.

*Reimagining Libraries update*: This library project is not moving forward quickly because the consultant hired to assist has backed out. It doesn't seem as though this will be an 'ask' for PTOs to fund this year.

*Cafeteria Food committee*: We have previously discussed both the cost and nutritional value of cafeteria food served by DPS. There has not been a huge response to work on this from CDSP members. Lori Olsen suggested that--for the DHS--Ellen Dunn should go to student council for feedback.

## **Review of Budget Process and Outline**

Michele and Leila gave highlights and timeline of the process including:

- Overview of Process: Board of Education passes proposed budget; Board of Finance needs to approve; RTM has to vote on full budget. Preliminary calendar was provided electronically.
- Operating and Capital budgets are the two elements.
- The key drivers are fixed costs-salaries, operations etc.
- School budget reps should touch base with PTO chairs/principal in your school; this will be helpful for speech process.
- CDSP meeting scheduled for January 10 will be focused around budget. Mike Feeny and Dr. Landon are expected to attend.
- Regarding speech themes, Board of Education is looking for more detail because they can line item veto; Board of Finance is looking for more general support from tax payers; less detail.

## **CDSP Rep Role Discussion**

This was a preliminary discussion regarding redefining this role; final vote to approve this will be Jan 10 CDSP meeting.

Discussion points included:

- Ideally there is interest in having CDSP reps sit in on PTO Exec Board meetings so that they can be better informed/more involved.
- Each school could decide if this role would include voting rights for the PTO.
- CDSP reps have and continue to have a voting role within CDSP; that voting role means that it behooves CDSP reps to have a more global understanding at school level.
- Would like to have CDSP reps create a document in May to draw conclusions about the budget process/initiatives. This would be passed along to the Superintendent.

### **Officer Updates:**

Stacey Tie updated the group on the Special Education Subcommittee meeting the week before, which focused on discussion of the administration's presentation to the Board of Education on Special Education.

No new business from the floor

Motion to adjourn at 10:55. Stacey Tie, first; Shelley Sheridan, second  
Respectfully submitted by Catherine Piorkowski, Secretary.