



CDSP General Meeting Minutes

35 Leroy Ave.

April 4, 2019

In attendance: Julie Best, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Anne Fox, Shelley Sheridan, Stacey Tie, Beth Lane, Alex Hall, Alyson Johnson, Amy Daniels, Kelley Scallon, Lori Olson, Tiffany O'Connor, Leila Buckjune, Michele Treacy, Shelly Skoglund, Amy Zerbe, Sarah Madson, Jennifer Morcici, Joanna Walsh, Tara Ochman, Kadi Lublin, Jayme Stevenson

Meeting called to order by Sara Parent at 9:39.

Vote to approve minutes from March 7, 2019 by Amy Daniels; seconded by Lori Olson.

Co-chair Update

- *District news:* The hiring committee for the Hindley principal is in place. Committee includes two parents. It is possible that an announcement will be made following Spring break. The Superintendent search is going well; there are strong candidates. The hiring process is the Board of Education's sole job; parents were only involved in the focus groups.
- *Budget:* Key upcoming dates include: BOE meeting with RTM Education on April 8 and BOF budget vote on April 11. Julie and Sara have met with John Zagrodzky and Jim Palen to work on communication about the budget in the future.
- *Regionalization Bills:* The Looney and Duff bills did not make it out of committee. The Governor's bill--more of a 'study' bill--is still active; the term 'regionalization' has been removed. Regionalization might come up again in another committee such as finance. In general, it is anticipated that the teacher pension debt will reach towns/cities in some way this year.

League of Women Voters

- Shelly Skoglund introduced a preliminary discussion regarding CDSP possibly co-sponsoring an event around regionalization. Some questions from the floor included:

who is speaking and does this event fit within our mission? Also, it was suggested the LWV consider carefully scheduling any such event to ensure it is well-attended.

MMS Field Trips

- There have been proposed changes to the field trips in middle school during a recent BOE meeting. Specifically, the 6th grade field trip is proposed to be changed to team activities on campus. The 8th grade field trip is proposed to change from an overnight Boston excursion to a day trip centered around the capstone projects.
- In general, parent feedback is that the proposed changes to 6th grade are ok but that there is a lot of interest in retaining the 8th grade trip. Other concerns brought up from the floor were the cost of field trips to families and that communication about these changes were rolled out at the BOE meeting.

Elementary Field Trips

- Discussion around changing the cap for the upcoming school year will be put on hold. The topic will be picked up as part of the CDSP work for 2018-2019.
- Apparently, paying for field trips out of in-cap spending reaches a amount that requires the PTOs to get board approval for them. Julie and Sara will be having a discussion with Mike Feeney about what the process should be in the future.
- The district would support a survey on field trips at the elementary level.

School Wires

- Tiffany and Lori explained that it is important for other PTOs to recognize that the Thriving Youth Asset Team (organized by the Community Fund) is *not* a DHS Club. They asked that Wire editors keep a look out for unclear references to this in proposed announcements.

YWCA

- Marli Hayes, Community Outreach Manager, spoke about the organization. She acknowledged the contributions PTOs made in prior years.
- Some of the work the YWCA is doing is reacting to the youth asset survey in partnership with other community organizations. A current focus is around the topic of marijuana use.
- YWCA has a community calendar on their website that could be a valuable tool for PTOs to use when scheduling events and for avoiding duplicate events.

School Updates

- *Royle*: Book fair is upcoming.
- *Tokeneke*: Piloting a student art show through Artome. The goal of this event is to build community; this is not intended to be a big fundraiser.

- *DHS*: College Fair was very successful as was the collaborative effort with SEPAC regarding what programs and supports are available to students at the college level.
- *Ox Ridge*: Held parent/child presentation regarding smartphones; may follow up on this topic with 'brown bag' lunch discussion.
- *Hindley*: Currently have 26 percent parent participation in direct appeal for fundraising. Also, working on Hindley Happening in May.
- *Holmes*: Dr Bogart will discuss anxiety in upcoming PTO meeting.

By-Laws

- Full review to be done in Fall 2019

Officer Update

- *Nominating*: Beth Lane announced that the Special Projects Chair is still unfilled. The slate for the executive board will be voted on in May.
- *Treasurer*: Anne Fox announced that insurance renewal forms were sent out via email without her knowledge. She will send them out via hard copy as usual.
- *Community*: Shelley Sheridan announced that the organizations who have approached CDSP for donations are Parent Awareness (\$400 per school) and Music for Youth (\$300 per school). Reiss Fund will not be asking for funds at this time. Approval of these amounts will be voted on during the May meeting. It is important to know that other organizations might approach PTOs individually; Shelley may work on a 'cheat sheet' to assist incoming PTO chairs in understanding some other outside organizations and how PTOs have interacted with them in the past.
- *Special Education*: Stacey Tie requested that PTOs reach out to her with the names of Special Education Reps as they slate them so she will have a working list for next year. If PTOs need assistance in slating those roles, please reach out to Stacey.

No new business from the floor.

Motion to adjourn at 11:08. Stacey Tie, first; Sara Parent, second.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Piorkowski, Secretary.