



## **CDSP General Meeting**

**October 15, 2020 9:15 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**In attendance:** Julie Best, Lori Olson, Ellen Abbot, Raquel Bird, Leila Buckjune, Lisa Cerussi, Libby Cook, Amy Daniels, Stefanie Desai, Lindsey DeVito, Belinda Fang, Kristen Fiordalis, Gina Gromelski, Alex Hall, Crystal Hill, Ashley Hinchman, Alyson Johnson, Beth Jacobs, Joan Kanlian, Carol Kennedy, Kadi Lublin, Sarah Madson, Jill McCammon, Beth Morgan, Jennifer Morici, Robin Nelson, Tiffany O'Connor, Lori Olsen, Amy O'Kane, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Byrne Pozzi, Jennifer Sherman, Yesim Cil Sukhrani, Stacey Tie, Joanna Walsh,

Meeting called to order by Julie Best at 9:17 a.m.

Vote to approve the minutes of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 by Julie Best. Passed unanimously.

### **Superintendent:**

- Dr. Addley thanked everyone for their feedback and support of our schools. Children are delighted to be back in school, as are most teachers. Teachers and Staff have all stepped up to open the schools and for the most part it has gone very well. Working to get feedback on where there is opportunity for improvement.

### **Co-Chair Update:**

- *Discussion Updates:* The student attendance policy will remain the same. Students who are sick should stay out and take care of themselves. Students out longer than 24 hours may request a zoom link to learn remotely. Not all classes have remote learners, so the district will need time for teachers to set up for remote and adapt lesson plans accordingly. The District is in the process of optimizing the hybrid plan in case we find ourselves back in it. They will be holding info sessions for parents and look to hear parent feedback. Dr. Addley has reached out to the state for guidance around the required 900 hours of learning. Full time in-person learning will result in less than 900 hours due to the time that Covid safety procedures take out of the day. The district is also looking to improve the Covid Dashboard.
- *Social Media Question:* A reminder to adhere to the same behavior online that you would in real life. We want people to feel comfortable to reach out to their PTO representatives and not be dissuaded by any social media comments.

- *Programming with Tina Boogren:* The CDSP is recommending Tina Boogren for a Parent Speaker evening. The charge is \$1,850 that would be split between all participating PTO's.
- *Sales Tax Reminder:* If PTO's are selling more items for more than \$20 they must charge tax. Each PTO gets 5 tax free exemptions (a defined event) a year or you can sell through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Please follow this guidance to protect our 501-3c status.
- *PTO Spending for 20/21:* The CDSP encourages all PTO's to spend money this year, and spend down reserves. PTO's need no more than one year of savings. Find creative ways to have events for parents, kids and teachers and please share ideas with the larger CDSP group.

### **Officer Updates:**

- *Special Education:* Attendance has been up at school special education coffees this year.
- *Treasury:* Conflict of Interest forms will be coming out this week. Please sign and return.
- *Community Outreach:* The CDSP will be launching our social media pages in the next couple of weeks. Asking for PTO support to share those links and pass them along to the school level social chairs.
- *Budget:* The District is tracking Covid specific expenses, but a formal expense appropriation isn't likely until January. Current projection is \$2.6M in extra expenses. This includes 12 FTE. All are 1 year contracts. However, the Superintendent signaled there could be a need for a Technology Tech to stay on after the 1 year to support the new 1:1 technology in the elementary schools. The formal budget process will start with Dr. Addley's Superintendent budget which is presented to the BOE. The BOE votes on any changes. Once finalized it is passed to the BOF for a vote and then on the RTM for a final vote.

### **School Updates:**

- *DHS:* Great feedback from parents on the virtual open house. Will be creating a volunteer "fair" section on the website for students to learn more about those opportunities. Holding a college panel on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and a special Education coffee on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- *MMS:* Drop off/pick up is getting better. The Adirondack chairs and tent arrived and are set up for the teachers. A Helping Hands Network has been created to help families. Getting positive feedback on social media posts. Open house feedback was positive, but heard that parents would have preferred the links to stay up a bit longer.
- *Tokeneke:* Pumpkin Carnival week was a success. The Principal loved how it changed the school spirit. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> is a charity shopping event at Darien Sport Shop. Holding a Darien Human Services supply drive on Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. Purchased gift bags for teachers with postcards to help teachers keep in touch in case school goes remote.
- *Royle:* Using social media to encourage community. Held first PTO meeting with school support staff for the entire school community. Discussed meeting kids needs and how to

support them within a Covid environment. Will be hosting an E-book fair. Trying to plan some E-events for parents. Looking for ways to connect with remote learners.

- *Ox Ridge*: Held a family photo day fundraiser and raised \$3600. Sept 24<sup>th</sup> hosted a teacher appreciation event with boxed lunches that received a lot of praise on social media. Oct 19<sup>th</sup> will host a virtual book fair for two weeks. Planning a Kahoot for students later in the fall. Boo Grams will be going out to support unicef. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> school psychologists will present to the PTO.

- *Holmes*: Walk-a-thon was a success. Book fair will be virtually held. Planning a movie night for parents and to purchase popcorn from the boy scouts. Trying to connect with remote learners, but many want to keep info private. Considering a community wide dinner for families, delivered to home.

- *Hindley*: Hosting a virtual Race & Diversity parent learning event. Trying to create a community for remote learners. Have asked room parents to reach out to them. Considering having items delivered to their home for the holidays. Looking to add a charitable element this year. Will be donating some proceeds from the virtual book fair to Darien Book Aid. Family Photo fundraiser proceeds will go to Filling in the Blanks. Looking for ways to continue staff appreciation and support.

**New Business:** None

Motion to adjourn at 11:21. Byrne Pozzi, first; Jennifer Morici, second.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Kennedy, Secretary.