



CDSP General Meeting

November 19, 2020 9:15 a.m.

Via Zoom

In attendance: Julie Best, Lori Olson, Ellen Abbot, Raquel Bird, Cristina Boudo, Leila Buckjune, Libby Cook, Amy Daniels, Stefanie Desai, Lindsey DeVito, Belinda Fang, Kristen Fiordalis, Gina Gromelski, Alex Hall, Crystal Hill, Ashley Hinchman, Beth Jacobs, Joan Kanlian, Carol Kennedy, Kelly Lasage, Kadi Lublin, Sarah Madson, Jenn Moller, Kristy Moore, Beth Morgan, Jennifer Morici, Robin Nelson, Tiffany O'Connor, Amy O'Kane, Tara Ochman, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Byrne Pozzi, Jennifer Sherman, Katie Stein, Yesim Cil Sukhrani, Stacey Tie, Joanna Walsh, Tara Wurm

Meeting called to order by Lori Olsen at 9:19 a.m.

Vote to approve the minutes of October 15th, 2020 by Lori Olsen. Passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Update:

- *District Wide Staff Appreciation:* An extreme thank you to everyone who participated and to Amy Daniels for creating and running the event. Julie and Lori have received emails from the District, BOE and Families thanking them. News 12 Connecticut covered the event. All agree that it is nice to have a positive spotlight on our community.
- *Facilities meeting update:* The district has an architect looking at portable removal and Library media special rooms. Reviewing and analyzing the square footage in the classrooms to ensure enough space when they remove the portables. This project will take time, but it looks like an action plan is coming together. The Ox Ridge Building project is moving along smoothly. Still in the bidding phase for some elements.
- *Corbin Cares Update:* Support of schools and our teachers is always appreciated. The CDSP is not directly participating, but is partnering by sharing schedules and events so that our efforts do not overlap. Corbin Cares will be providing all essential Darien workers a family meal for four from local businesses.
- *Volunteers: recruiting and retaining:* Due to Covid we have a lot more families working from home. There may be new people looking to volunteer and get involved, including Dads.

- *Darien Human Services:* The schools have been wonderful partners this year. Many families are facing incredibly challenging times due to Covid slowdowns, but the community has rallied to support. Many schools are doing drives for DHS. Could we post a blurb in all the school wires? There is no appointment necessary to drop off supplies, just call 203-656-7328 M-Th 8 am – 5:15 pm.

Officer Updates:

- *Community Outreach:* Thank you to all the PTO's for supporting the District Wide Staff Appreciation. The CDSP Facebook page went live and has over 400 followers. A reminder to follow if you're not already doing so. At a Thriving Youth Task Force meeting social and emotional programming needs were discussed. This may be an area the PTOs can help with in the schools.
- *Special Education:* Continuing to ask for consistent messaging and posting of meeting materials as well as meeting topics that are good for all schools. Asking for a Special Education remote plan and parent training for remote times.
- *Treasury:* Reminder that conflict of interest forms are due. A picture from your phone of the document is fine.
- *Budget:* The BOF met last Tuesday and gave guidance to the BOE of a 2.5% budget increase. Teacher contracts rise at 3% a year, so it's possible with only a 2.5% increase there may be some increased pressure on the school discretionary dollars.

School Updates:

- *Royle:* Teacher Appreciation was a big success at Royle, over 70 posters. Created a prize board for the staff with gift cards to all local businesses. Virtual Book Fair is still ongoing with 30% going back to the school. Enrichment: Using Travelling Lantern for 3-5 Lewis & Clark presentation and Theater Works for K-2 Pete the Cat. Holding a Turkey Drive next week. Also a Hat & Mitten Drive and Gift Card drive for DHS. January will hold a Trivia Night and Royle Moms Go To Town virtual Centerpiece Floral Kits. Wondering what other schools are doing about 5th Grade promotion ceremonies.
- *Ox Ridge:* Book Fair is complete, raised 6K. Boo Grams raised 2K for Unicef. Created a Veterans Day video that was well received and held a Poppy Drive to raise money for Veterans rehabilitation. Delivered cookies to staff for Staff Appreciation and had a wonderful turnout of support. Enrichment will be holding We the People for 3-5 and an Author Visit – A Girl Named Rosita for K-2. Held a virtual Sipsters wine tasting for a parent social. Gingerbread houses can be purchased as take home kits this year. Hope Chest, asking parents to donate Amazon Gift Cards and create cards for foster children.
- *DHS:* Held well attended virtual coffees for Special Education and Freshman/Sophomore parents. In December returning college students will hold a remote panel to speak with parents. October 30th got box lunches for staff from Four Forks. Planning a special thank you for the nurses by purchasing gift cards and food delivery in early December.

- *Tokeneke*: Held a successful drive for DHS. Also collected candy for Operation Gratitude. Will hold a turkey drive and partnering with Palmers. Diversity & Inclusion group launched. Held two zoom sessions. Will launch an anonymous survey to learn what the school wants from this group. Will work on a mission statement. Enrichment: On demand showing of Charlotte's Web and interview with Mack Barnett. Working with Darien Arts Center for a parent virtual craft lesson.

- *Holmes*: Held a teacher appreciation breakfast last week with delivery from Michael Josephs. Yesim has taken on the Diversity & Inclusion project. Have launched an adult book club that starts in January. Also holding live cooking sessions, one country/culture recipe where you watch a session and cook along at home. Enrichment: two author visits in December and one in April. Planning to purchase books and distribute to students. Will also hold a virtual comedian and magic show.

- *MMS*: The pumpkin carving contest was a success. Trivia night is tonight with over 100 sign ups. Student council is partnering with P2P for a food drive. Bins will go out in early December. Holding a YWCA parent talk in January, Social Dilemma. Working on an 8th grade transition discussion. Teachers Thanksgiving pies will be distributed on Tuesday. December will give staff a holiday box lunch.

- *Hindley*: Had Melt Mobile come for Staff Appreciation which teachers loved. Remote events included: Pumpkin Decorating, Cooking Class with the principal, how to make an easy pumpkin pie and pear turkey. Virtual Book Fair is ongoing. Turkey Drive will be held next week. Family portrait proceeds of 2K will be donated to Filling in the Blanks. Virtual movie night with Travelling Lantern. Popcorn and tickets were given out. Enrichment – Mack Barnett will be teaching writing techniques. Will be putting up a story walk at school the librarian will keep updated. Utilizing committees who are less involved due to covid changes.

New Business: Could we create a list of businesses schools are using to ensure that we're including as many businesses as possible? Questions from the floor: Why do hours spent on social and emotional learning not count towards the state 900 hours tally? What is the definition of an instructional hour? Is there any policy about teachers telling their classes they are in quarantine? Why is the Administration changing the MMS Remote learning schedule?

Motion to adjourn at 11:33. Belinda Fang, first; Tiffany O'Connor, second.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Kennedy, Secretary.