



CDSP General Meeting

April 22, 2021 9:15 a.m.

Via Zoom

In attendance: Ellen Abbot, Allen Addley, Julie Best, Raquel Bird, Leila Buckjune, Amy Daniels, Stef Desai, Lindsey DeVito, Duke Dineen, Belinda Fang, Kristen Fiordalis, Mary Elizabeth Garvey, Gina Gromelski, Beth Hanig, Crystal Hill, Ashley Hinchman, Joan Kanlian, Carol Kennedy, Kadi Lublin, Sarah Madson, Mia Mihopoulos, Jenn Moller, Beth Morgan, Jennifer Morici, Robin Nelson, Tiffany O'Connor, Amy O'Kane, Tara Ochman, Lori Olson, James Palen, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Byrne Pozzi, Deb Ritchie, Jennifer Sherman, Katie Stein, Stacey Tie, Chris Tranberg,

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

Vote to approve the minutes of March 11th, 2020 by Lori Olson. Passed unanimously.

Chris Tranberg - Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction:

- The National narrative regarding education doesn't fit Darien as we've mostly been in school this year. Through testing we have seen that our students are performing at, or above, benchmarks. The reason for this is at the beginning of the year we prioritized standards in curriculum; reading, writing and math. We focused on the need to know, not nice to know. This was across all age ranges. There were strategic decisions on what content and skills were most important. And, teachers worked hard to form different relationships with students. Therefore, our largest issues for next year focus more on re-socializing, not as much academically. Our students have been sitting in rows in the classroom and have not participated in group work. Their stamina may have changed. We believe there will be development needs in the Social and Emotional areas. S&E curriculum has been written in the past and the Administration is checking in at the building levels to ensure it still meets our current needs. Questions/Discussion from the floor included: How does the Administration define learning loss? Certainly some students must have been impacted. How did the strategic curricular choices translate at MMS and DHS level? What are the biggest lessons you've learned from remote and how could this help us in the future? How are you thinking about next year? How are we going to identify students who may have fallen behind?

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

- The DEI chairs at the elementary schools have come together and formed a committee to discuss DEI plans at each school. They are united in a mission to help people feel more comfortable with the discussion of DEI topics. They will also be meeting with Chris Tranberg to discuss ways they can support

the administration in DEI efforts. We very much appreciated Dr. Addley's comments at the BOE in regards to the swastika found at Holmes school. The CDSP is working with the YWCA to roll out a 14-day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge to the entire school district. It will go live May 4-14th. After the 14 days each school will hold a meeting facilitated by the YWCA.

Action Item - VOTE :

- Vote on 2021 CDSP Donation Requests - Passed Unanimously
- Vote on By-Law Changes – Passed Unanimously

Officer Updates:

•*Nominating*: Thank you to our Nominating Committee who worked hard to put together this slate. We still have one open position, Budget Co-Chair. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please reach out to Jennifer Morici.

•*Community Outreach*: Thank you to all for approving the 2021 CDSP Donations.

•*Treasury*: We will be renewing AIM Insurance in June and July. Please keep an eye out for these emails

School Updates:

- *DHS*: The DHSPA is moving ahead with celebratory Senior events. Will have yard signs for Mid-May. Adopt a senior forms are due by May 5th. The DHS parade is going to happen either the afternoon of June 15th or morning of June 16th. Prom will be held on June 5th which has been rescheduled to hopefully accommodate more people as the state allows gathering numbers increase. During Pride Month the GSA club is planning all types of events.
- *MMS*: Tents from the fall will be put back up in the next week or so. Teachers will then be able to hold some classes outside. Counselors are working on a virtual tour for 5th grades. The MPA will purchase lawn signs for all 8th grade students. There will be a Special Education panel on April 30th. Will also hold a May DEI and YWCA event on “How to be an ally.”
- *Tokeneke*: April 30th will be a virtual Bingo night with Rock, Paper, Scissors. Have a fun DEI online questionnaire for a chance to earn a gift certificate. Will be holding Spring Fling – includes Direct Appeal video, auction baskets and a virtual talent show. The Girls Scouts will be building a kindness rock garden out front. We are working on celebrations for our Principals retirement.
- *Royle*: Planning teacher appreciation week with a “Teachers are out of this world” theme. Will be having a donut delivery and an ice cream truck. Will be holding a virtual book fair. Working on a remote, adult only, comedy night with dinner from Bodega. Will be pushing our DEI events out to next year. Thinking of possibly holding a Mom’s night outside for the Spring.
- *Ox Ridge*: Moved the Green Team’s Earth Week to next week when we’re in-person learning. Having a coffee truck, coffee tumblers, donut delivery, teacher fan mail and a GC raffle for teacher appreciation. Online book fair will be held May 10th – 23rd. Held a successful Mother’s Night Out with Dance on the DL.

Considering a socially distanced yoga event for the end of May. In discussions with the Principal about end of year efforts.

- *Holmes*: Held a very successful book fair. Have a newly formed DEI committee. The 5th grade is seeking guidance on their graduation events.
- *Hindley*: Our Principal is leaving and we hope the new search will be happening soon. Earth day plans were shifted to Instagram because of remote learning. May 17th will launch a virtual book fair. Held Rock, Paper, Scissors and a Charlini event. Mad science came and the kids loved it. Won't be holding the Hindley Happening this year. Instead will be having a month long Hindley Hoopla event. One day each week will have a special event such as Tie-Dye station, a magician, and a treat truck to come on a Saturday. Wondering what other schools are doing about their gardens in need of updating. Is this an in-cap or out of cap expense? Working to fill our slate. Will be holding a virtual Kindergarten orientation. And our DEI committee will be kicking off this week.
- *DHS*: For Teacher Appreciation gave all teachers a \$25 gift certificate to the chamber of commerce. Monday marked 100 days until graduation for our seniors. Had a surprise for all seniors, cookies, balloons etc. Working on the end of year celebrations. Will be holding "Adopt a Senior" again this year. If you have any friends with seniors please remind them to opt-in to the email list, if they haven't already done so.

New Business: Thank you to all for giving our students a normalized year! Your hard work and creativity has been amazing!

Motion to adjourn by Julie Best at 10:44 am. First, Jennifer Morici. Second, Catherine Piorkowski

Respectfully submitted by Carol Kennedy, Secretary.