

Meeting: Family Advisory Council

Date: October 1, 2019

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Administration Building, Room 137

Attendees:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl Bacon	<input type="checkbox"/> Brook Berg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rory Borsheim	<input type="checkbox"/> Christine Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooke Cairns
<input type="checkbox"/> Kristine Casto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erica Christensen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Forehand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Geske	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Giffey
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Gorman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gail Hanson Brenner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Hardebeck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne Hartman
<input type="checkbox"/> Darren Hollenbeck	<input type="checkbox"/> Megan Holmen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barb Kainz	<input type="checkbox"/> Bev Karnitz
<input type="checkbox"/> Dana Lieble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Market-Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lucie McGee	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristin Milne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenna Murphy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Omar Parks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shannyn Pinkert	<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua Pond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shana Schmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Schmitz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Sterling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Szymanski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Tvaruzka	<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Willems	<input type="checkbox"/> Lori Wright

Guests: Jim Schmitt (Executive Director of Teaching & Learning), Drew Seveland (Academic Services Coordinator)

Notes: Meta Miske

1. WELCOME

- Dr. Hardebeck welcomed back to everyone who has been here before and welcome to everyone who is new. Each person present introduced themselves.

2. ELECTION OF FAC OFFICERS

- Open to nominations for officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary
 - Chair Nominee: Jenna Murphy, passed by unanimous voice of acclamation
 - Vice Chair Nominee: Rob Geske, passed by unanimous voice of acclamation
 - Secretary Nominee: Anne Hartman, Brooke Cairns (backup), passed by unanimous voice of acclamation

3. VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE

- Jim Schmitt and Drew Seveland presented
 - There is a need for some families to have students in a virtual environment and we were losing students through open enrollment out to other virtual schools so in one year they developed the idea, created a governance board, obtained School Board approval and passed a contract between ECASD School Board and ECVS Governance Board, accepted applications, and opened the school
 - The school has a mascot (Griffins), mission, and programming which were created in collaboration with local students and families.
 - ECVS students take most of their work virtually, but are encouraged to try a class at a school
 - To be successful, the students must be academically self-motivated and have a safe and supportive home environment
 - Most ECVS students are resident ECASD Students, with a few students who were resident non-ECASD students or were previously homeschooled or on other virtual schools

- There are five seats left and those will open for enrollment at semester break
- They are creating community learning experiences such as going to plays, Beaver Creek, board game nights, and a school spirit committee
 - Kids are thinking about school pictures, a yearbook, etc.
 - They will plan a graduation celebration for the two seniors attending the school
- We contract through Pearson Connexus who run the virtual learning service with licensed teachers to teach the courses online; this company was chosen because they have the best results in student success
 - We are looking at ways to provide local teachers as we grow and develop. Drew Seveland is an Academic Services Coordinator for the District and oversees the program with office hours to support students, so they have a local person to help them
 - There is also a counselor available
 - The goal is to bridge the virtual school with the traditional schools in the District so students can easily bounce back and forth if necessary
- They are currently accepting enrollment applications for 2020-21
- Questions:
 - Are students in the virtual school also eligible to participate in extra-curriculars?
 - Not yet for high school because of WIAA rules but are looking at options to address that; middle school extracurricular activities are open for participation, as all middle school extracurriculars are open to any resident student
 - What is the goal for increasing numbers?
 - They are looking at expanding into 4th and 5th grade, but that may look more local rather than through Pearson Connexus.
 - In terms of volume of students, they will continue to make sure it's a good fit for the students versus a number of seats to fill so it's purposeful to meet needs of students
 - How does the per student cost compare to a traditional school?
 - Approximately \$4,250 per student for the virtual school, which is less than District receives per student from the state; the extra money goes to human time, devices, Wi-Fi for students who need it, etc. so cost is evenly compared to traditional schools
 - What supports are in place for students with health/mental health or other disabilities?
 - We address on a case-by-case basis and involve key players/resources from the district
 - Is there an internet speed required?
 - If a family doesn't have the required internet or internet speed, the district can provide a wireless hotspot to provide the necessary internet access
 - Can Jason Schmitz (parent rep from ECVS) share his experience?
 - His child is academically strong and had gone through the Regis system, but many friends were moving to public school and he wouldn't remain with his friends due to boundaries, so it was a good time to make the switch
 - They expected some bumps as they've transitioned, but the bumps have been few and far between and the District has been very proactive in addressing issues
 - He's a fan and thinks it will create good opportunities for his son
 - They are taking advantage of the community learning experiences as well
 - How did Jason hear about the program?
 - They received a flyer in the mail
 - There may be other ways to advertise, word of mouth especially

- Family testimonials might be good in a video promotional because parents find it valuable to hear from other parents about their experience.

4. SURVEY LINK

- Jim Schmitt is assembling a survey which Meta will e-mail out to get feedback on how to structure the meetings this year; please watch for the e-mail

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Three big events have happened for the school board
 - They approved the boundary changes for the elementary schools
 - That will keep Roosevelt as a 2-section school, and it will receive a secure entrance next summer; they'll be looking at plans for handling the rest of the Roosevelt renovations
 - In the meantime, we are working through some security issues since it's currently the only school without a secure entrance
 - The Board has seen a proposed early budget for the 2020-2021 school year
 - It is possible we will have a balanced budget this year
 - There is a long list of needs out there that haven't been met that may not be met including band instruments/uniforms, iPads for art teachers, devices, etc.
 - Numbers will be finalized after the 3rd Friday Student Count and we are hopeful to have a healthy budget this year
 - The Board has decided to conduct a Superintendent Search independently rather than hiring a search firm
 - Lori Bica is the chairperson of the Search Committee
 - There will be listening sessions with families and schools, a survey, etc.
 - They hope to have a decision about a new Superintendent in April and there will likely be updates at each Board meeting.
- We had a great opening of schools
 - We were wrapping up a lot of construction and our Buildings & Grounds department did a wonderful job preparing the schools
 - The referendum projects came in on time and in budget
 - At the first principal meeting of the year we received positive information from the principals about the opening of the school year

6. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE

- We will try to keep the meetings to one topic and wrap up by 8:30 to get families home

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 7:00pm, Administration Building