

**Meeting:** Family Advisory Council

**Date:** February 3, 2020

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Amy Traynor	<input type="checkbox"/> Dang Yang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Schmitz	<input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Sterling	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Yang
<input type="checkbox"/> Amy Westom	<input type="checkbox"/> Darren Hollenbeck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenna Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Giffey
<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Hartman	<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Kuhn	<input type="checkbox"/> Julia Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Tvaruzka	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace Mueller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Boyd	<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Willems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaying Xiong	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Faude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sara Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> Brook Berg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erica Christensen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Hendrickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pa Thao	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Schmitt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooke Cairns	<input type="checkbox"/> Gail Hanson Brenner	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristine Casto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Geske	<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Gorman
<input type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Market-Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lucie McGee	<input type="checkbox"/> Shana Schmidt	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carl Bacon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holli Jacobson	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shannyn Pinkert	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christine Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> James Peng	<input type="checkbox"/> Megan Holmen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Bautch	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Guests:** Mandy Van Vleet, Kim Koller, Rebecca Graf

**Notes:** Sara Johnson

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

## 1. News from the schools

- Kelly Hendrickson – Special Ed PTA. Will be having a meeting (Tuesday, March 9 @ 7pm) and would like to spread the word to get more people at their meetings. The board (3 out of 4) are moving on since kids are graduated and would like to keep it going; please spread the word.
- Christine - Follow-up from last meeting, working with various parents from the area (60 parent volunteers) regarding graduation for Seniors. Scavenger Hunt, car parade, yard signs (included Regis and Emmanuel)

## 2. New Special Education Transition Site – Mandy Van Vleet (Exec Director of Special Education)

- What are transition Services? (see recorded presentation)**
- No additional cost from school budget.**
- Question:**
  - Rob G: How is this related to SEPTA? Answer: Work closely together
  - Jenna: Will this be staffed by current teachers and aids, or will there be hiring? A: will be looking at the staff needed, but don't see an increase in staff that is needed.
  - Shannyn: absolutely amazing and thank you for all the great work!
  - Holli: Are their specific requirements needed to be able to participate? A: depends on needs of the student.

## 3. Enriched/Accelerated Programming Changes – Jim Schmitt

- English: 84.6% is white, Math: 85.8%, Science: 78.8% (100% students without disability for all 3)
- Not a good representation of students with disabilities or others.
- Declining in skills
- Cluster grouping: group within a group, but have different tasks based on their skills. You can also have the ability to move students in and out based on their trajectory.
- Wanted to create on and off ramps for students to easily change and be flexible.

- f. Rob (Question) What about the kids who aren't actually found to be gifted? How does their path change since there isn't enough gifted kids for a full class?
  - i. Put about 4-5 of them in a class together and be part of the class the same way but will have additional opportunities to be challenged.
- g. Shannyn: what is the process if having to take a break due to Covid and now wanting to start back up? Do they need to reach out and test again?
  - i. Michelle Radke looks at data to see if the students are ready and then will reach out to the families.
- h. Rob: Was this a district level decision or was there parent involvement/input in making these decisions?
  - i. Yes! We have family, teacher, and student input. Wanted to get student input on challenges. Timing was hard because it was happening right when Covid hit. More questions are starting to get asked.
- i. Erica: One of the first thing brought up to me was to ask questions about this program, but with the transition, did it eliminate elementary focus?
  - i. We were finding a lot of desire to not do the grouping at a younger age and will start pushing this towards the younger group to help support students at a younger grade. There is a lot of disruption that can take place, so that is why it is important to get input.
- j. Jenna: soph daughter has always liked taking enrichment course because there isn't someone in the class that is interrupting and curious if this is true from a teacher perspective?
  - i. Don't want motivated students to lose motivation, so will reduce challenges in non-enriched classes.

#### **4. COVID-19 and Instructional Model Update – Mike Johnson and Kim Koller**

- a. Going back down to Fall numbers.
- b. @ time of presentation 125 staff, 228 secondary, 154 elementary positive for Covid
- c. Going against county recommendations due to being less than 6 ft apart when K-5 starts in person learning.
- d. Elementary stays in 1 class all day, whereas secondary and high school moves to different classes all day. Hard to know if a student was in class and where they were sitting.
- e. Looked into other elementary schools in the district and got a variety of data.
- f. Different variables were looked into and found that everybody does something different.
- g. CDC Recommendations came out recently (ECASD in the orange category – slide 18) recommending 6ft of distance or more. Only missing one requirement out of the 5 (slide 19)
- h. Principals have met to provide feedback regarding learning & assessment, Ops, Communication, and other areas.
- i. Surveyed staff:
  - i. feel safe in current model (slide 21)
  - ii. Could an adult maintain 6 ft of distance in their current classroom even if students could not? Just over ¼ of adults said they could (slide 21)
  - iii. Would you feel safe in the new model? About 1/3 feels safe; 2/3 feel unsafe.
  - iv. Do we wait for the vaccine before bringing students back? Vast majority thought post-vaccine would be the best time to bring students back.
- j. Why not secondary and HS going back?
  - i. Has to do with co-horting (slide 25) and “pods”. Kind of like a cohort of kids in each class.
  - ii. In HS/secondary, because they change class every hour, it is hard to cohort the students.
  - iii. Able to control elementary contacts more than HS/secondary.
- k. Looking into bringing in students receiving special services in to prevent falling behind.
- l. Special Ed Services and 504 plans: (slide 27) **Mandy Van Vleet**

- i. IEP's will need to be updated to reflect the 4 days a week of in person learning.
  - ii. Adjusting of staff and schedules
  - iii. Additional staff may be needed
  - iv. Update 504 plans as needed.
- m. COVID Health and Safety Protocols: **Kaying Xiong (slide 28)**
  - i. With bringing more students back, not able to guarantee 6ft of distance, but working on putting students in Pods.
  - ii. Begin vaccinating educators on March 1, 500 already vaccinated!
  - iii. EOD Saturday, about half of staff will be vaccinated.
  - iv. Rotate when staff are getting vaccinated because of side effects.
  - v. Aware of variant strains, but we do not know what the impact will be.
- n. Communication with Families:
  - i. Rationale for change
  - ii. Details within a new model
  - iii. Options for families
  - iv. Form to indicate family decision.
- o. Questions:
  - i. Sara: info is very informative regarding the reasoning why secondary/H.S. is not going back.
  - ii. Christine: heard from 3 different teachers that it was really hard to lose a day of teaching due to conferences, when it could have been a Wednesday. A lot of concerns with preparing students for the AP testing.
    - 1. Had a focus group of teachers, but days need to go in at the beginning of the year and it was a very deliberate decision. Part of the planning and HS teachers were involved.
  - iii. Jenna: Covid #s in the orange, was that for city, state, or county? It was county.

##### **5. Superintendent's Report – Mike Johnson (No report tonight)**

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 7:00pm