

Meeting: Family Advisory Council

Date: October 6, 2020

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Bautch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brook Berg	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Boyd	<input checked="" 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"/> Nicole Faude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Geske	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Giffey
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Goings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gail Hanson Brenner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne Hartman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Hendrickson	<input type="checkbox"/> Darren Hollenbeck
<input type="checkbox"/> Megan Holmen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holli Jacobson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sara Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Kuhn	<input type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Lee	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Market-Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lucie McGee	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace Mueller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenna Murphy	<input type="checkbox"/> James Peng	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shana Schmidt	<input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Sterling	<input type="checkbox"/> Pa Thao
<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Tvaruzka	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Westom	<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Willems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dang Yang	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Yang

Guests: Jim Schmitt, Kay Marks, Kim Koller

Notes: Sara Johnson

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Election of Officers – 19-20 Chair Jenna Murphy

- Chair: Jenna volunteered to chair again for the 20-21 school year; no other volunteers
- Vice Chair: Erica Christenson volunteered; no other volunteers
- Secretary: Sara Johnson volunteered; no other volunteers (Backup: Brooke Cairns)
- Motion made by Rob Geske to approve all; second by Brooke Cairns

2. Welcome and News from Schools – Jenna Murphy

- Jenna Murphy talked about High School and how hybrid model is going and said her daughter's only issue is lack of participation when in an in-person setting.
- Anne Hartman agreed and wanted to hear more from elementary schools since she has high school kids; wondering how we can help other people in the elementary school setting.
- Nicole Faude said this year is going really well and seems like it is going better than the end of last year. "Outstanding Experience." Plans are well-written and teacher prepared kiddos really well on how to use the online portal.
- Erica Christensen said all grades at her school have transitioned very well and the teacher is communicating very well. 2nd grade and below have been very happy with the class size and communication. Better than the end of last school year, when they had quite a few issues.
- Christine Brown's son is at South Middle School and has had a good experience.
- Dang Yang's daughter is having a good time and getting things set-up. Said some parents have brought up how the district could have done a better job with language barriers.
- Brooke Cairns said communication is very good and virtual days are going really well. The only issue that has come up is with students switching to virtual, the school had to switch around teachers, so that has been a bummer.
- Gail Marie Hanson Brenner (via Teams chat) I didn't speak up because I was having tech issues - but would like to share. My sophomore daughter has Spanish virtually and has been struggling in that class. They meet once for 45 minutes on Thursdays. She's asked me to find a tutor for her because

she doesn't feel like she is learning much. If she could change anything, she would want Spanish in class and NO study hall.

- Amy Weston (via Teams chat) We have found my son's 8th grade band is 1 day a week, and they have not actually met each week. That has been very frustrating for him.
- Anne Hartman (via Teams chat) Also agree with Gail Hanson Brenner - our kids don't need a study hall when they are in person - they have a study hall for 5 days when they are home!
- Julia Johnson (via Teams chat) My perspective as a mom to a 1st and a 4th grader in the all-virtual option... the virtual classes are large (38 students from 4 different schools) and the teachers have varied abilities delivering content virtually.
- Amy Westom (via Teams chat) I also agree with the study hall being unnecessary. My daughter had to change up her schedule because of CVTC courses in Spring semester, but she did originally have a study hall this semester and it was not necessary. She has enough work time at home. She has been able to complete her school work M-W (we are Cohort B) in 2-3 hours.

3. Met the New Superintendent – Superintendent Johnson

- Superintendent Michael Johnson Introduced himself to the council.
- Discussed how the start of the year has been going. He is very proud of our hybrid model and what we have accomplished thus far. He knows we would all like to be in-person, but virtual has gone well. Some schools where they go 5 days a week, we are seeing districts/schools closing for a couple weeks due to COVID and he believes following the guidelines of our county is preventing this from happening to us. He also stated that we just don't have the square footage to do 5 days a week in-person ensuring social-distancing guidelines are followed. He also said there are lots of things to continue doing and the district is still working on continuously improving and updating the virtual model by keeping up to date with the COVID-19 Dashboard.
- Discussed the districts Transition Plan and shared the ECASD Learning Model Decision-Making Tools document.
- **QUESTIONS:**
 - Q: People are feeling like there aren't any plans to go back to full-time face-to-face instruction. Given our county health instructions and wanting to be at the level F, where is the school district at as far as that goes, to open up to 5-days a week when we aren't at the county level of 0 cases.
 - A: Superintendent Johnson said we are at level D. Talked with Exec team and if we got to a level E, what we would like to do is be able to for example, open up K-5, with the guidance of the health department, and go grade by grade. We would continue having weekly meetings with the county health department and agrees the plans need to be shared. Asked for Rob Geske's feedback.
 - Rob: Things are going well based on all of the other choices. Difficulty comes in when as a district we are held to the various departments and health departments guidance.
 - Q (via Teams chat): Is it a requirement to go along with ECCHD recommendations or is it the district's decision to do so? What are the other school districts in Eau Claire doing? Are they following recommendations?
 - A: Superintendent Johnson said yes. We are abiding by the guidance and hoping other districts are as well.

4. Opening of Schools Update – Executive Team

- **Jim Schmitt** presented a trimmed down version of what was shown in the board meeting on 10/6/2020.
- **Kay Marks** presented data and information on Staffing (Certified staff turnover rate – 5-year summary)
- **Kim Koller** presented data on Enrollment Trends
- **Kay Marks** presented information regarding Virtual Schooling
- **QUESTIONS:**

- Q: Planning for full-time instruction, it seems to me that students that are being “short-changed” in non-face to face learning, may have trouble learning virtually. Did we look into opening grade levels? This information would be important to share with the community.
 - A: Superintendent Johnson: This will be shared with the city health department after getting parent input and see what the flexibility would be.
- Q: Perception from parents based on recent school board meetings regarding the significant amount of time that was taken to decide to go to 100% virtual, as well as the change in the calendar. Some think the school district is giving up and no one has any plans to go back to 5-day learning face-to-face. Suggests when communicating, make sure to let the community know what the overall goal is and that there are things that need to be figured out first.
 - A: Superintendent Johnson agreed and said any type of plan needs to be presented to them and let them know our goal is to get back to 5 days a week.

5. Topics FAC would like to discuss this year – Superintendent Johnson

- Superintendent Johnson advised maybe the council could communicate ideas to the chairs and they can bring the information to execs so that can come back with more information.

6. TEAMS CHAT QUESTIONS:

- Q (unanswered): Would all matrices need to be green to return to school five days a week?
- Q (unanswered): Giving my elementary aged kids iPads has been really frustrating for our family. My 5th grade son who has ADHD would be on his iPad not doing schoolwork all day if he could. We actually have to lock it up so he can't use it when he's not doing schoolwork. It is a constant frustrating struggle to keep him on task while doing his schoolwork on the iPad. The district has Jamf Parent that would allow the parent to turn off certain apps or times that the iPad could be used at, but it is only available on an iPad or iPhone. We have android devices, so we are not able to use this. I was wondering if the district was looking into any other program to help limit how much screen time and what apps our children have access to?
- Q (answered): In what ways has the district ensured that the new virtual and blended model include considerations for Section 504 for students with disabilities?
 - A: Jim Schmitt answered via chat: Students in both instructional models are supported by their home school. This includes the school psychologist who conducts the initial 504 evaluation, and the school counselor who maintains and supports the 504 plans. If a student's 504 plan was written last year, it may need to be revisited in light of changes to the student's instructional model.
- Q (answered): In this discussion regarding the results of the needs assessment, can you clarify if the feedback was from staff only or did the needs assessment include feedback from parents/students?
 - A: Jim Schmitt answered via chat that it included all stakeholders.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 7:00pm