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Meeting: Family Advisory Council

Date: 1/3/2023

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Virtual

Attendance: Lyndsay Simmons (Co-Chair); Anna Foiles; Erica Christensen; Holli Jacobson; Jamie Kampf; Jenna Murphy (Co-Chair); Jessica Schinke; Juergen Schaupp; Katie; Caitlin Mai Chong Lee; Leslie Gorman; Linda Carlson; Lucinda Kemmet; Nicole and Jack; Nicole Everson; Shana Schmidt; Jason Schmitz; Scott Zielski; Shannyn Pinkert; Michael Johnson; Mandy Van Vleet; Julia Johnson; Nicole Brynelsen

New from Schools- No Updates

World Language Update:

- Inconsistent info was given regarding staff reduction vs elimination of programming.
- June 2022 – WL (world language) Dept meeting looking at data and trends, other districts our size do and consultation trends – In person important for entry level learning; higher level can be done virtual; most other districts do not offer 6 languages.
- Nov 2022 discontinue Japanese after 2024 and infuse Hmong ½ into Hmong cultures.
- Nov 28th board meeting with discussion on WL future.
- Admin meetings followed.
- Dec 5th announced reinstating Hmong 1 & 2 and Japanese.
- Dec 14th Hmong PTA.
- Registration for HS 2023-24 Underway.
- Different feedback groups sought for addressing present and future challenges.
- Concern with Hmong course was amount of time teaching – doesn't count as a world language credit if it's in history; would need to take a second world language.
- Juergen: Idea of community offering Hmong.
- Lucinda- Figuring out the purpose of the Hmong classes – is it for the language? Is it for the connection? Interwoven into our community; Do feel like afraid to let things go, change is painful, sometimes we can't please everyone. You did all the work, very mindful, slammed breaks because community pushback. What's the process so that we can make changes?
- Mandy response- We think we maybe missed some steps; will continue to look at programming; reflective on process before we go into putting all areas on program review cycle. Missed some communication on our end. Started with world language because it was a problem that we had to solve. More proactive? Can't add new programming without making space.
- Nicole Everson- So we had 6, dropped to 4 because of staffing, and now back to 4 because of community pushback?
- Mandy response: We value all the languages we just felt like the numbers would rise in the other courses and would eliminate staffing challenge. Also looking for teachers with

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correct licensures and may now have to rely on online learning. Back to the drawing board.

- Nicole- What if the numbers continue to decrease, the original concern is still not being addressed?
- Michael Johnson- New opportunity with this year's class registrations, students tend to get 1st and 2nd choices which is the goal; sometimes as you eliminate programming, you cause a struggle for kids to get that. Students share their voice with choices they make.
- Erica Christensen- How was it decided to add Hmong? Numbers are pretty low. What was the long-term goal?
- Michael- Mandy and I were not here when it was added. The School Board voted to support and provided direction to District Administration to implement. Only district in the entire state to offer multi levels of Japanese with a FT teacher. Very proud of that, but long-term sustainability is a concern. What happens when this teacher leaves/retires? We also had 5 new Board members when it was decided.
- Erica- I think it was important to bring in, but feels like it was rushed/hastily organized. Agree that high quality is important; but just saying virtual doesn't mean low quality.

Superintendents' Updates:

- Referendum Bids- 5 projects on 12/27.
- End of semester approaching- teachers preparing for final grades and report cards.
- Summer school planning- partnerships with other groups in the city that are promoting our programming.
- Implementation and data collection/analysis of fall system (ex: social work, counseling, intervention positions) – Do have funding left- being strategic with it and hoping to continue to utilize it effectively.
- Reviewing needs for semester 2 & 2023-24.
- Prep staffing for Jan/Feb – retirements due and course registration numbers.
- Weather- prep for virtual days.

Future Meetings:

- March – Reps contact school collect information on PTA fundraising- make sure they know it's for information purposes not for pooling purposes at all.
 - What fundraisers are done; what were the most successful; what's the goals; fundraisers to be aware of, which ones didn't work at all – inclusive vs not inclusive to all students.
 - Grants- have we applied for them as a PTA?
 - Strategies connecting parents into the school; partnerships.
 - Curious if any school has fundraised for new playground equipment – someone said they kept looking for other quotes (Jenna Murphy) and ended up with really steep discounts.



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- FAC members requesting conversation about bathroom issues at the High School. Would appreciate principal or staff coming in to talk about it. Consider it a concerning, recurring issue that is being brought to FAC reps.
- Trauma informed care; diversity/inclusion conversation at future meeting – What are the schools doing? Processes? Training? Etc.

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