

# MINUTES/NOTES

**Meeting:** Family Advisory Council

**Date:** 11/1/2022

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Administration Building – Board Room 137

## Members present (X):

<b>Sam Davey:</b> Erica Christiansen OPEN	<b>Flynn:</b> OPEN OPEN	<b>Lakeshore:</b> Holli Jacobson OPEN	<b>Locust Lane:</b> Brooke Cairns OPEN	<b>Longfellow:</b> Michelle Miland (X) Katie Sideri	<b>Manz:</b> OPEN OPEN
<b>Meadowview:</b> OPEN OPEN	<b>Northwoods:</b> (X) Leslie Gorman (X) Nicole Prock	<b>Putnam Heights:</b> Tom Giffey (X) Jamie Kampf	<b>Robbins:</b> Nicole Cook OPEN	<b>Roosevelt:</b> Shana Schmidt (X) Lyndsay Simmons	<b>Sherman:</b> (X) Julia Johnson OPEN
<b>DeLong:</b> (X) Shannyn Pinkert Scott Zielski OPEN	<b>Northstar:</b> Brook Berg (X) Rob Geske (X) Jessica Schinke	<b>South:</b> (X) Audrey Andrews (X) Linda Carlson OPEN	<b>Memorial:</b> Gail Hanson Brenner (X) Jenna Murphy OPEN OPEN	<b>North:</b> (X) Nicole Everson (X) Rob Geske OPEN OPEN	<b>ECVS:</b> Jason Schmitz OPEN
<b>McKinley Charter:</b> OPEN OPEN	<b>Montessori Charter:</b> Anna Foils (X) Juergen Schaupp	<b>Special Education PTO:</b> (X) Nicole Brynelsen Kelly Hendrickson	<b>Hmong PTA:</b> Caitlin Lee Dang Yang	<b>District Administrator:</b> (X) Michael Johnson	<b>Teacher Rep:</b> Mark Goings

**Guests present:** Abby Johnson; Lucinda Kemmet, Support Eau Claire Public Schools (SECPS)

**Meeting started at 7:02 p.m.**

### I. Selection of Co-chairs/Secretary

- Lyndsay Simmons (Roosevelt) and Jenna Murphy (Memorial) volunteered to be this year's Co-chairs
- Rob Geske (Northstar and North) volunteered to be this year's Secretary

### II. News from Schools

- Northstar – The main fundraiser this year will be the RaiseRight Scrip program.
- Memorial – The food pantry and clothing store were highlighted.
- Northwoods – Christmas in the Northwoods will be 11/12.
- Montessori – Has a fundraiser similar to Christmas in the Northwoods; Juergen is concerned about keeping the institutional memory of the parent group.
- General discussion ensued about different fundraisers at different schools and what has been successful; one to two fundraisers seems like the norm; Square One Art, Club's Choice, butter braids, walk-a-thons were discussed; clearing house-style, living document discussed to have a centralized up-to-date source of information for school reps.
- SEPTA (now SEPTO) – meeting this Thursday (Zoom), please check SEPTO FB page for more information.

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## III. Referendum Update/November 8 Election Day

### a. Introductions

- i. Mike introduced himself to the group, highlighted the importance of FAC, and mentioned he would be handling the World Languages agenda item.
- ii. There was discussion as to what day regular FAC meetings occur. Historically, FAC meetings have occurred on the **first Tuesday of the month** unless a special day (e.g., holiday, election, etc.) falls on that day. If members want this changed, we should discuss it and come up with a solution.

### b. Update

- i. Since September 15, Mike and his team have shared over 75 referendum presentations with various stakeholders in the community (e.g., schools, PTO's, community groups, etc.).
- ii. FAC feedback from prior meetings and communications has been very helpful in shaping the messaging.
- iii. The overall goal is to get information out in the community through various channels.
- iv. The school presentations have been very important to make sure school staff are well informed and so the referendum information can flow from the "inside out."
- v. There are 7-8 presentations left to take place.
- vi. Video clips and media spots have been very helpful informing the public.
- vii. Popular questions being brought up: What if it passes? District will be looking to all stakeholders to provide valuable input to help finalize the project. What if it doesn't? This is a BOE decision, not administrative, so the BOE can decide – scale down future referendum, regardless, there aren't enough funds to take care of our existing maintenance needs.
- viii. Turf? Reminding folks it is about 4% of the overall project.
- ix. Support Eau Claire Public Schools (Lucinda Kemmet).
  1. Our district is underfunded and has been since 1993.
  2. We get \$700 less per student in funding than the state average.
  3. Emails have been shared regarding SECPS' work, and new FAC members can reach out to Rob if they'd like to connect with SECPS and learn more about them.
- x. Question about ESSER funds and how they are being used – Mike and Abby shared the funds are being used according to the parameters of their use and especially to combat learning loss.
- xi. Mike covered the history of how Eau Claire funding came to be and has been since 1994.
- xii. Questions were brought up regarding why the funding formula has never been changed, how we can better educate the Eau Claire public about the history of our funding and why it is what it is, how we can communicate with folks (e.g., breaking down the large dollar amounts to smaller, relatable amounts) to make the funding being sought come across as reasonable, and the need to bring in newly elected officials to talk to them about making change at the legislative level.
- xiii. Lucinda shared information about the Association for Equitable Funding.
- xiv. Over 90 school districts across the state are going to referendum this year.
- xv. A history of ECASD's referendums was discussed as well as known success rates.

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- xvi. It was stressed to educate yourself about referendums and then educate others through the various groups of which you're a part (e.g., PTO's, etc.).

## IV. **School Year Quarter 1 Progress and Future Outlook (because of time limitations resulting from a robust referendum conversation, it was decided to table discussion of World Languages until a later time)**

- a. Beginning with a summer filled with preparation and work for this school year, Mike and his team are now doing an "educational autopsy" to check on growth and achievement levels within the district.
- b. Mike has an ongoing concern about the achievement levels at the middle schools.
- c. Since the school year began, district administrators have been implementing various systems for the levels and distinct needs at the elementary, middle school, and high schools.
- d. Behaviors have been an ongoing concern at all levels; social media is a continual issue as well as issues stemming from phones.
- e. Audrey offered her perspective of seeing the result of these issues when offending students show up where she works at the public defender's office; parents aren't monitoring or controlling tech use and it may be a good idea to have a presentation to help parents understand how to monitor their kids' tech behaviors; Mike said that there were systems of support being implemented at all levels to address this.
- f. Attendance at secondary levels has also been an ongoing concern being worked on; general worry about attendance at the high schools and credit recovery.
- g. Looking forward, the district will continue to focus on achievement and credit attainment, needs for Semester II, grade and departmental standards work especially in ELA and Math (much work was done this summer to determine how to master certain standards and implement them for student success by going back to the basics).
- h. Lyndsay brought up her work at DHS and trauma-informed care.

## V. **Superintendent's Update**

- a. Referendum vote is fast approaching.
- b. The budget was completed on 10/24.
- c. The end of Q1 is on Friday 11/04.
- d. School report card data will be available after 11/16.
- e. Summer school planning is underway.
- f. The district is preparing for future staffing (January and February).
- g. As the meeting came to a close, there was a brief discussion about the length of FAC meetings. Jenna mentioned that when she started on FAC, meetings were scheduled from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and would usually go much later. Perhaps further discussion should be had to iron out what everyone is comfortable with this year.

## VI. **World Language Update – Spring 2022 to Present (some members present requested that Mike give an update on German programming; those interested, stayed to hear the update, which was previously tabled in IV. above).**

- a. Mike explained his disappointment in how miscommunication led to the current state of affairs with German. The original intent was to provide information

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regarding a reduction of staff; Mike stressed the importance of understanding the difference between not offering a class and discontinuing an entire program.

- i. May 2022 – German issues briefly discussed at FAC meeting.
- ii. May 2022 – Student and Family survey.
- iii. June 2022 – World Language department meeting; discussed enrollment data, trends, and research was done to understand what other districts our size are doing; partnership with consultants for trends in the US, Midwest, and future job market.
- iv. June to August 2022 – developed solutions for when teachers resign, made a commitment to not “crash classes,” and actively interviewing for German hire(s).
- v. Juergen provided feedback that the German teachers were not happy with how their days were set up (i.e., travel between schools, alternating schedules, etc.).
- vi. Due to difficulties at the beginning of classes this year, the district has had to utilize CESA programming and has spoken with UWEC about their trends for December grads.
- vii. Planning is continuing and information is being provided to the BOE, staff, and families by mid to late November in preparation for middle school and high school schedule preparation.

**Meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.**

## **Potential future Agenda Item(s):**

Utilizing successful methods and programs from one school (e.g., Flynn) to provide assistance through interventions at other schools (e.g., Montessori) and having a way of discovering, using, disseminating, and maintaining such data.