

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2017



HSD Mission

To provide safe environments and responsive programs that inspire all students to become lifelong learners and contributing citizens in a global society

HSD Vision

Personal growth, achievement, and success for every student

PRESENT: Sue Forry (HHS), Patti Hunter (HHS), Luann Bicevskis (HHS), Wendy Wernoch (HHS), Liz White-Monos (LMS), Tammy Jacobs (LMS), Kim Heilshorn (CMS), Kim Barden (CMS), Erika Armentrout (CES), Erica Reichel (CES), Melissa Aument (EPES), Jennifer Houck (EPES), Ed Kreibick (FES), Jodi Heisey (MES), Kelly Keel (MES), Dawn Ruppert (RES), Deana Staples (RES)

ABSENT: Kathi Shaffer (HHS), Mindy Charles (HHS), Leisel Allgyer (FES), Jeff Guindon (LPC/LIC), Beth Brennan (LPC/LIC), David McCabe (LPC/LIC), Kathleen DenBleyker (CMS)

6:30 pm Welcome & Purpose

- This agenda represents the general flow that SPAC meetings will follow throughout the year.
 - There will be updates during which we provide information and/or seek input from the group.
 - We will also respond to member inquiries that we receive in advance of the meeting. Providing your topics one week before the meeting is much appreciated so we can do homework, if needed.
 - If time permits at the end of the meeting (we try to leave a little time for this), we will engage in discussion of other topics as appropriate.
- SPAC Meetings are intended to focus on district-level, K-12 issues, concerns, and topics. If items are more building or level specific, we will work with members to find ways to address these items outside of the SPAC agenda.
- If you have burning questions between meetings that are time sensitive, please send them to [Shannon Zimmerman](#) so we can work on providing answers.
- Additionally, we maintain a Schoology Group so that SPAC members can communicate with administration and with each other throughout the school year.
 - This is where we will house SPAC minutes and documents that may be of interest to you or the folks you represent.
 - If you need a Schoology account, click here to complete the signup form.
 - Please contact Shannon Zimmerman for the access code to join our SPAC Schoology Group.

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6:45 pm Updates: Outdoor Events Security Considerations

- Something with which we struggle is how best to deal with challenges presented by students during football games, many of whom are unaccompanied by a parent or responsible adult.
- Things we are either doing or have discussed doing and on which we'd like some feedback as we look forward to next year:
 - Not permitting spectators to bring food/drink into the stadium
 - Not permitting spectators to bring bags or backpacks into the stadium
 - Requiring students who are not accompanied by a parent/parent-aged adult to enter through a student gate where bags/backpacks would be searched by administration
 - Not admitting elementary-aged students unless they are accompanied by a parent/parent-aged adult
 - Other thoughts?
- *If anyone has questions or input about this topic that was not shared on Wednesday evening, please feel free to share with [Shannon Zimmerman](#).*

7:00 pm Response to Member Inquiries

- **Quad Project (Chris/Dan)**
 - We just completed a 2-minute Talk video on this topic earlier today (Wed. 9/27) that will post to the website shortly. [You can access the video here.](#)
 - In 2007, Hempfield School District constructed the quad field for approximately \$2.5 million. At that time, we formed a partnership and signed a lease agreement with the Hempfield Soccer Club.
 - The Hempfield Soccer Club contributed \$500,000 towards the initial construction of the quad field, and we have received annual rent from the club since 2013 as part of the lease agreement. The quad is widely used for practices and games including soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, marching band, football, and the Hempfield Soccer Club. Physical education classes are regularly held on this field for high school, middle school and Landisville Primary Center students.
 - Independent testing determined that the quad field was, after ten years in service, at the end of its useful life. Replacement option discussions began in the Buildings and Grounds Committee meetings and a project recommendation was brought forward to the full School Board. This recommendation, which was approved by the school board in February 2017, involved several components.
 - The board approved a proposal from FieldTurf to install new turf for about \$1 million. The board also approved a seven year lease amendment with the Hempfield Soccer Club, which required the club to pay one-half of the costs of installing the new turf

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field. The board approved project oversight from ELA Sport for the Quad Field turf replacement.

- Work on the quad field began at the beginning of June. When the old turf was removed, we encountered some unforeseen challenges with the drainage of the field. This discovery required unexpected meetings with our project partners and a change order for the project that pushed back the timeline for completion by about six weeks.
- The drainage was corrected, and the stone base was installed in early August. The installation of the new turf started right after and the quad was ready for action in early September.

- **Bus Seating (Dan)**

- The max number of students per bus is 77, which equals three students per seat.
- Ridership at the secondary levels drops off so while we may plan a route with 80 or more students, significantly less will ride.
- Bus drivers are responsible to provide us with student counts on a regular basis. This helps determine appropriate ridership levels on a bus.
- Additionally, we ask that bus drivers implement seating charts to help minimize any overcrowding from instruments, situations where students triple up to avoid sitting with a particular student, etc.
- We have on-bus cameras that allow us to see cars in front of the bus but also students inside the bus. Therefore, ***if you notice an overcrowding issue on a bus, please contact our Transportation Office. Please provide the bus number, date, and time so we can review bus video and determine potential issues.***

- **Later Starting Times (Chris/Dan)**

- We are aware of what research says about adolescents' sleep needs and patterns.
- We explored some possibilities that might have addressed this issue roughly 4-5 years ago as we were looking for ways to reduce expenditures, including taking input from the community during a transportation-focused forum.
- However, to go with a later start time for secondary students would require that we do one of three things, all of which present significant challenges:
 - Send elementary students to school before the secondary students so we can maintain our two-phase bussing structure (elementary kids at stops in the dark during high traffic times, getting home from school 90 minutes or more before older siblings would arrive home, PM childcare challenges, etc.)
 - Move to one-phase bussing – would require that we double the number of busses and drivers we currently utilize, which would result in the doubling of our transportation costs (from approximately \$4.5 to \$9.0+)

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million dollars). Given the status of school funding in PA and the need for the board to be fiscally responsible to the community, this option is not feasible.

- We could back the start time for all students up by an hour ... while this might be manageable at the secondary level (some challenges with after-school activities), real challenge would be at the elementary level ... bus pick-up delayed until 9:15 or later, school would not start until 10:00, students would not finish school until 4:30 and students would be arriving home in some cases after 5:00 pm. This was a consideration but was not viewed favorably by the community as we recall.
- Additionally, we would realistically need our entire county to alter start times, as we have students being bussed to 79 different facilities, including places such as the CTC.
- Thus, there are no immediate plans to change the start times for our schools. There is the possibility that we may attempt to do some unique things at the high school with the daily schedule, but exploration of possibilities has been very preliminary and we are likely a couple of years away from any potential changes.
- **Placement of substitutes with children in-district (Chris)**
 - This should not be an issue when we are dealing with multiple-day, extended, or long-term substitute assignments – we typically know about and can line these up far enough in advance to ensure that student-parent overlap does not occur.
 - The same scrutiny, however, is not possible when dealing with daily subs, which often involve assignments literally a matter of hours before school starts. There is no way to cross-check subs against students to see if overlap exists for daily sub assignments.
- **Orchestra Retention (Chris)**
 - The chart on the next page shows the data we've been able to compile with the help of Dr. Alan Mudrick, music department supervisor.
 - As you will see, there have been no dramatic fluctuations up or down in recent years.
 - It was mentioned to Chris early in the week that there may have been an interest in retention figures from elementary to middle. We are not sure we maintain that data – that's something Mr. Bromirski will discuss with Dr. Mudrick to see if we even collect that data. If so, we'll look to share at the November SPAC meeting.

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School	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
CMS -	46	49	45	40	56
LMS -	55	58	41	47	40
Total -	101	107	86	87	96
HHS					
Concert Strings (Gr. 9) -	34	31	21	29	28
Symphony Strings (full year) -	43	55	58	46	47
Symphony Strings (semester) -	14	8	0	9	7
Total (Gr. 9-12) -	91	94	79	84	82

- **Teacher Branding/Ethics (Chris)**

- Someone on SPAC had a concern about the concept of Teacher Branding based on this article in the NY Times.
- Vendors offering free technology/products/services to teachers for their personal or professional use in exchange for teachers promoting it to students or other teachers is a very questionable activity in the eyes of the legal community.
- A suitable parallel for comparison involves pharmaceutical companies that have long cultivated doctors to promote brand-name medicines to their peers in exchange for various perks. Insiders have a nickname for these doctors: "Key Opinion Leaders."
- Such branding arrangements do create potential conflicts of interest ... is the service/product used actually deemed to be best practice or evidence-based, or is it being used primarily because the educator is getting something in return for using the service/product in class with students.
- At this point, we are not aware of any of our teachers that have been sought out or approached by vendors to engage in this type of activity.
- If/when we learn about such offers being extended to teachers, we will work with teachers to help them understand that they are not independent contractors. They represent the district and while we do not dictate how they help students learn, there is board policy related to the curriculum that is taught, how we select or approve materials or products that are used in our classrooms, etc.
- As we move deeper into the 1:1 environment, we have established processes for teachers to share apps or new products they'd like to see purchased or used with our tech department so we can screen them, determine appropriateness, etc.
- Bottom line – we are not endorsing this concept as a practice as a district.

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- **Perceived inequity of extracurricular programming across the district (Chris)**
 - We need additional information to address this topic.
- **Advertising non-school clubs/activities at school (Chris/Tab)**
 - We have a process for these requests.
 - Advertisements/fliers come to the superintendent's office for approval
 - If Chris is ok with the content (nothing profane, objectionable – rarely happens), information is sent to schools for placement in the offices in a location where students or parents can pick this information up.
 - The availability of fliers is normally made known through morning announcements to students, as well as a listing of available fliers to parents/guardians in the 4:00 p.m. eNews.

7:45 p.m. Discussion

- **How can SPAC members best share information they learn and promote their participation on SPAC?**
 - We have [a page on our website](#) dedicated to SPAC. This page lists the 2017-18 SPAC reps.
 - After each SPAC meeting, Shannon creates a summary of the topics discussed and the information, with a link to the minutes, is posted to each school webpage. This is sent out with the daily 4:00 p.m. eNews.
 - Please check with your school's principal for other methods to share information with school stakeholders.
- **Adding Recess At Elementary Level**
 - We believe kids need an opportunity to decompress and refocus. This doesn't necessarily always need to be in the form of an outdoor recess.
 - Teachers are encouraged to provide opportunities for students to move - Brain breaks, access to large collaboration spaces (LG rooms, collaboration space in the newer buildings), etc.
 - We have to make sure we provide a minimum of 900 hours of instruction at the elementary level per PDE – recess does not count toward these instructional hours. Our daily schedule must also work within the confines of our teacher contract. These two factors place some limitations on the addition of a recess that would cause the elimination of another block of instructional time.
 - Mike Bromirski will be discussing this with the elementary principals during their October meeting. If any new information arises, we will share it at SPAC.

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- **Cheese Sandwich Update**
 - We have a 2-Minute Talk on our district's procedures related to school meal accounts. [View it here.](#)
 - Since then, we have also updated our school board policy, allowing administration discretion regarding what meal will be served to a student whose account is habitually in arrears.
 - This provides us some level of choice – cheese sandwich or PB&J, fruit, and milk or juice.
 - This change also helps us meet federal requirement for partial reimbursements of these meals.
 - It is important to remember that we utilize a whole team approach – social worker, school counselor, cafeteria manager, and principal are involved before we are every serving a student an alternate meal.
- **Healthier Food Options**
 - First, we want to clarify that no foods served in our district are fried.
 - Sometimes, things that make sense to serve, we are not able to do (i.e. - we can't offer salads five days per week at the elementary level due to the items that must be on the salad, such as protein, which creates higher sodium levels).
 - The Food Services Department is implementing "Try Me Tuesday" later this fall/winter. Students will be encouraged to try new menu items.
 - If you have specific questions or suggestions, [contact Brian Rathgeb](#), Food Services Director.
- **Games on School iPads**
 - Request is to limit non-educational games that can be downloaded on school iPads.
 - All apps are approved by the school district and may be downloaded in self-service on the iPad.
 - If you have questions about a specific app, [reach out to Jeremy Paul](#), Assistant Director of Technology.

Future Meetings: 6:30-8:00 pm, Public Board Room

Wednesday, November 29

Tuesday, January 30

Monday, March 26

Tuesday, May 29