

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, June 5, 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

Members In Attendance: Patti Hunter, Wendy Wenoch, Mindy Charles, Liz White-Monos, Wendy Bellew, Jamie Stock, Jodi Heisey, Kelly Walker, Dawn Ruppert, Kim Barden, Cindy Brodbeck, Melissa Aument

6:30 p.m. District Updates

- **Naviance (Melissa Boas, School Counseling Department Supervisor)**
 - Naviance is used at the secondary level to help students narrow post-secondary paths, apply for scholarships, manage college applications, sign up for college representative meetings, and request letters of recommendation.
 - This program also helps counselors determine what interests students may have based on surveys and also follow up with students about transcript requests.
 - Naviance is secure and it is FERPA-protected.
 - All third-party applications that Hempfield School District uses are secure.
 - We do not use any applications that sell student data. All applications that staff use are vetted by the Technology Department.
 - Parents have the ability to opt out of providing information on some applications (this is not true for Sapphire and Schoology) if they are concerned about security.
 - In the future, Naviance will use survey responses to match scholarships to students' interests/schools/career path.

6:50 p.m. Response to Member Inquiries

- **Active Response Intruder Drills (Dan Forry)**
 - Staff members have completed the ALICE training. The district applies this philosophy in response to active intruder situations.
 - ALICE - Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Communication and Evacuate
 - We instituted a district-wide Safety and Security Officer who is working to implement district-wide practices and procedures and provide on-going education.
 - We are using two terms for emergency situations
 - Administrative Hold – This means that there is not an active threat in the building and requires staff and students to stay where they are so that the situation (medical, behavioral, etc.) can be addressed by administrators and first responders without interference.
 - Lockdown – This is more serious than an administrative hold. Staff and students are to stay in place, be aware that there may be a threat, and apply ALICE concepts to the situation.

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, June 5, 2017



- It is important to note that once the police are involved, they take over leadership of the response, working closely with the district's administrators. Administration has more limited decision-making responsibility under such circumstances and works with the police to release information. This may limit how quickly and what information is communicated by the district to parents and community members.
- Parents can help in these situations by following whatever directions are shared by the administration and first responders. Resisting the urge to come to the scene until receiving direction that it is okay to do so is essential so that first responders and administrators can respond to the situation most quickly and effectively.

- **Negative Meal Account Balances (Dan Forry, Chief Operating Officer)**
 - The district follows Board Policy 808.1, Lunch Accounts.
 - Out of over a million lunch meals eaten (and roughly 350,000+ meals purchased at school) as of May 9, 2017, 97 cheese sandwiches had been served district wide.
 - Dan Forry encouraged families to use My School Bucks so that they can see what their students are eating and to receive balance notifications.
 - Food Services staff work very hard to ensure that we do not get to the point of low balances in student accounts. We are not the least bit interested in embarrassing or shaming any of our students.
 - Administrators have begun discussion with Board Members to adjust the existing policy language so the district will have flexibility with respect to what might be provided to students moving forward.
 - We recently filmed a 2-Minute Talk on this topic. Interested individuals can [view it here](#).

- **2017-18 Staffing Information & Class Sizes (Chris Adams)**
 - Grades K-2: "Soft caps" of 25 students or fewer
 - Grades 3-6: "Soft caps" of 30
 - Within the last few years, we researched what other IU schools were practicing at the elementary level and found that few district would try to avoid going above 27 students.
 - We've worked hard since conducting research to keep class sizes at 27 students or less in grades 3-6.
 - Each year, starting in December, we begin analyzing class size and enrollment data for the upcoming year by grade and building. There are more than 40 different situations we review when all scenarios are considered.
 - This occurs weekly until June/July when we are looking at enrollment daily.
 - Kindergarten registration complicates our projection process because numbers may fluctuate and registration doesn't begin until the spring. We may also observe an influx after school is out.
 - Having a centralized registration process has helped us quickly resolve issues.
 - Middle School and High School class sizes can vary and will sometimes push to 30 students in higher level classes, and occasionally more.

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, June 5, 2017



- Currently for next year, we have 8 “hot spots” across the elementary world where we are watching enrollments due to being at or close to our target thresholds in those buildings/grades.

- **1:1 iPads and Electronics Overuse (Chris Adams)**
 - The iPad is a tool that can and should be used to accomplish educational tasks effectively – thus the reason for putting these devices in students’ hands.
 - The need for home iPad use will vary based on the amount of homework a student receives – as parents are thinking about how to modulate device use in the home, it is important to focus on the degree to which the device is needed to complete assigned educational tasks.
 - A general rule of thumb of 10 minutes of homework per grade level for at the elementary students (i.e. 10 minutes for G1, 20 minutes for G2, etc.). At the secondary level, it’s more likely going to translate to 10-15 minutes/grade. Please note that there may be more homework depending on type of class (i.e. AP, honors, etc.)
 - If you are finding this approach does not seem to meet your child’s needs, please contact the teacher to have a conversation about what you are observing at home and to receive additional guidance.
 - Thus, we encourage parents to focus more on the grade level and homework assigned vs. iPad use without the context of HW for which it may be needed.
 - iPad access and parameters for home use can be customized for each family. Each family has different expectations and wants/needs at home (teachers are aware of this).
 - *Securely* will allow you to set specific internet search filters, bed times, and block topics based on individual concern.
 - Parents who are interested can [learn more about content filtering here](#).
 - Our goal is to provide parents with as many tools as possible so that it can reflect how they run their home.

- **Climate Survey (Chris Adams)**
 - Fourth grade, seventh grade and high school students who had ready access to an electronic device in class were selected for this district survey.
 - Our purpose for piloting the survey in this way at the end of the year is to obtain some basic baseline data and to work out bugs with the survey tools themselves.
 - Ultimately, our intent is to be able to use the data regarding student perceptions of their school experiences to establish if there are district or building level themes of which we need to be aware so we can work to improve students’ experiences.
 - Moving forward, we will likely seek to have students in Grades 4-12 complete the survey because it is a cost effective and efficient way to receive feedback from our student stakeholders. This will be a work in progress and we will be gathering information and making adjustments as necessary. We will be sharing what we

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, June 5, 2017



learn through the survey process with parents, staff, board members, and other stakeholders as appropriate.

- Board Policy 235.1 – per this policy, the only surveys that we have to request pre-approval from the School Board to administer are those conducted by outside agencies, organizations, or individuals. These surveys require Board approval prior to administration. The same applies to notification of parents who may want to review survey materials and possibly opt their children out of the survey experience

- **U.S. News and World Report – HHS Ranking (Chris Adams)**

- This ranking is determined by a general screening process that start with district size, state testing performance, diversity, cohort graduation rate, and percentage of seniors who test and receive a 3 or higher on an AP exam.
- Data that is used can be up to three years old.
- We believe this is a very narrow and, at times, misleading way to look at what makes for an effective high school and so we choose not to put too much focus on whether or not we make this list from year to year.
- The most important feedback we receive that speaks to the effectiveness of our high school is the feedback we receive from students and families with respect to how well prepared students were to enter into the post-secondary world (i.e. are students realizing success in college, were students prepared to be successful as members of the work force, etc.).

8:15 p.m. Dismissal