



West Homer Site Council Minutes 10/3/2016

1. Opening activities

- a. Call to order (6:30)
- b. Establish Rolls:
Group accepted Mrs. Faber as secretary and Mrs. Marley was chosen as President.
The purpose of the site council was described as an advisory body to help obtain input and ideas.
- c. Roll Call :
Members present include: Eric Waltenbaugh, Krista Etwiler, Shay Lowney, Michelle Massion, Jennifer Dickson, Jean Calhoun, Leah Coppo, Laura Peek, Shannon McBride-Morin, Christine Faber, Brett Glidden, Erica Marley, and Dick Dunn
- d. Approval of Agenda: accepted
Packet of information was presented containing agenda, Bylaws, West Homer Elementary draft of mission statement and vision statement, growth mindset overview, district strategic plan, school wide professional development plan, and the news release of the community budget development meeting.
- e. Approval of Minutes
N/A

2. Principal Report

- a. KPBSD District Strategic Plan Review
 - Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that the district strategic plan will be ending this year. The district is currently reviewing the strategic plan. Team members were asked to identify areas they think are important to address in the new school year.
Responses included:
 - Mrs. Etwiler mentioned that it was difficult to respond as a parent because she was immediately asked to respond as a teacher.
 - Mrs. Marley and Ms. Lowney comment that they were asked to respond to questions as parents of their oldest child but couldn't respond as the mother of other younger children.
 - Mrs. Glidden and other parents reported that it's hard to say what we need to move forward. We are hopeful that the survey will give valuable information. But overall- doubtful because it was difficult to answer.
 - Ms. McBride reports that questions were difficult even for involved parents at multiple grade levels. She suggested that a survey be tailored to less involved parents consisting of more simple questions that provide a quick overview.
 - Ms. Lowney commented on her concern identifying areas of importance. She is concerned that areas that aren't identified by the group might be cut.
 - Mrs. Etwiler reported that they have provided better communication through the app, principal call outs, facebook page, and other ways of communication. This area has improved and the group is looking for communication to continue to improve.

- Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that resource allocations (2.2) is an area of strength. He as an administrator felt it was addressed efficiently when student numbers created the need for an additional teacher.
- Attract and retain 2.4 was also addressed by the group. Mrs. Marley mentioned that we have brought in some wonderful new hires that need to be retained. Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that we need to make the work environment positive so people want to stay.
- Regarding area 3.6 Service learning, Ms. Dickson reports that she would like to see students get active and involved in our community. Beach cleanup and the trail are helping get student involved. Nothing is being done school wide to service the community. Ms. Dickson mentioned that there is a strong volunteer base that would be willing to do some community student connectivity.
- Mr. Waltenbaugh suggested that parents send ideas to him. Mrs. Glidden shared that she had a lot of suggestions that she wanted to express. She plans to email Mr. Waltenbaugh.
- Ms. Massion commented on how important and valuable mentors are in the early years of a career in education. The mentor program was discussed.
- Mrs. Glidden had some concerns about the survey and the strategic plan. She asks that surveys are generated in a more ongoing pattern, that the district communicates statistics obtained from surveys more clearly, that quarterly data is offered for others to view, and that a better baseline is established and it is presented in an easily digestible dashboard type format. She also had some concerns that the strategic plan appears to focus on teacher measures and the measures are often the responsibility of individual teachers. She would prefer that specific programs are being implemented by the district and are explained clearly instead of burdening teachers.
- Ms. Lowney reports that recorders are added in 4th grade so they are more able to do band in 5th grade. These are things that would be meaningful to share. That is a specific example of what we are doing to increase student engagement.

b. WHE School Goals Review

- Our sight goal: By April this spring, we will increase student involvement from 76% engagement to 85% student engagement by using cooperative learning strategies, blended learning, and peer observation. The level of student engagement is difficult to measure through observation.
- Ms. Dickson asked how an observer would know that the students were engaged. Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that it is easier to measure if they are physically engaged. A physical artifact would be the best way to see if they are engaged. He also stated that focusing on engagement will increase student learning.

c. Growth Mindset – update

Mr. Waltenbaugh gave a brief overview of the growth mindset. He mentioned that the third grade is focusing on growth mindset as a whole grade level. They are focusing on the fact that students can improve. The growth mindset helps students develop the skills they need to achieve more.

d. WHE Draft Vision

- School vision: The learning community of West Homer Elementary inspires and supports all of our children to reach their full potential as lifelong learners.
- Mr. Dunn mentioned that the vision doesn't include the contribution we hope our students make on the community. Mrs. Marley commented that mentioning "contributing members of their community" encompasses this contribution.

- Jennifer wanted to encourage us to include something that mentions how we try to keep kids excited and joyful about learning.
- Ms. Coppo encourages us to add words that include ownership.
- Draft Mission: The mission of West Homer Elementary school is to build strong connections among community families, staff, and students in a safe, healthy, nurturing environment which challenges each student appropriately at his/her level.

e. PBIS – update

- PBIS: This area was addressed. Mr. Waltenbaugh said that the committee is in the process of identifying what behaviors go to principal what goes to teachers.
- He also reported that the school is working on bullying. They are working to define bullying and help students recognize bullying.
- Right now individual teachers manage bullying. Re-occurring incidences are referred to the principal.
- Mr. Waltenbaugh is hoping to see some more training on bullying. The bystanders are really the key and it is important to help them feel empowered to do something.
- Leah asked if the green dot program was increasing our attention to bullying. Dick asked about the Rachel Challenge. Mr. Waltenbaugh replied stating that there are a lot of bullying proofing programs being implemented in our community including Loving Logic.
- Ms. McBride-Morin asked that we attend to the issue of cyber bullying. She said that middle school does struggle managing cyber bullying. Mrs. Etwiler reported that Isafe is mandated for teachers
- Mrs. Marley mentioned that she had a flyer on cyberbullying and would like to bring the flyer in to Mr. Waltenbaugh.

3. New Business

a. Bussing Route Input

- Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that we will be going to a two tier bus plan. Administrators will be meeting tomorrow. He is asking for input for the meeting tomorrow. We currently start at 8:25. We will have to start at 8 or 9.
- Mrs. Marley wants to start elementary start at the same time. She does not want to pair us with the high school.
- Ms. McBride-Morin and Mr. Dunn reports that the high school would be better to start later because brain research indicates that that would be most beneficial.
- Ms. McBride reports that a later start for high school students may decrease troublesome behavior.
- Ms. Lowney reports that PTO and emails have overwhelming reported that elementary students should start together at the earlier time. From all PTO and email responses and feedback, there were no parents asking for later start for the little children. Even when they were considering 6:45 pick-ups, they were still accepting of the early start.
- Ms. Lowney reports that some parents would want to know if the upper schools could be opened up a bit early.
- Ms. Mc Bride-Morin was interested in figuring out a way volunteers could be used to help the middle schools open up early.
- Ms. Peek reports that after school sports are often an issue for a late start for high school. If students start later, they will miss more school for afternoon activities. Mr. Waltenbaugh re-iterated that not one parent wanted to have a late start for the elementary students.
- Ms. Lowney reports that a 9 am start time allows for morning practice.

b. Budget Meeting at HHS October 13th 6:00pm

Mr. Waltenbaugh emphasized the importance of this meeting. The flyer was handed out and discussed. Mr. Waltenbaugh stated that site council members from all schools will be expected to attend this meeting. The handout of the meeting was addressed and discussed. Attendance was recommended. Discussion included:

1. Brief overview of budgeting process
2. Fiscal reductions we are facing

c. Quarterly Meeting Schedule:

Mrs. Marley will work with Mr. Waltenbaugh to schedule the next meeting.

4. Old business

N/A

5. Adjourn

Meeting was Adjourned at 7:43

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will occur during the 2nd quarter.