

Site Council 4/17/2017

West Homer Library

1. Opening Activities
 - a. Call to order: 6:03
 - b. Roll Call: Eric Waltenbaugh, Beth Bowe, Krista Etwiler, Leah Coppo, Christine Faber, Erica Marley, Marj Dunn, and Dick Dunn.
 - c. Approval of Agenda: No additional items were added
 - d. Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved
2. Principal report
 - a. Engagement Goal Update:
 - i. At the beginning of the year, students were engaged 76% of the time. By November they were at 94% and in February they were at 96%.
 - ii. It is possible that one more collections of data might be obtained before the end of the year.
 - iii. It is expected that more cooperative learning and blended learning will increase percentage of engaged students. There was a discussion about if there should be a focus on observing these forms of instruction in isolation or if data should continue to be collected randomly.
 - iv. Mrs. Marley suggested that random data collections is more appropriate because it allows for all different types of learning to be reviewed.
 - v. Mr. Waltenbaugh suggested that we may at some point want to see if cooperative learning or blended learning increase student engagement. Observations taken with a focus on these forms of learning may also be valuable.
 - vi. Mr. Dunn reported that he has heard from students that field trips are being repeated year after year.
 - vii. Mrs. Marley mentioned that in her experience, each trip is a little different
 - viii. Mrs. Etwiler reports that parents want teachers to utilize our community resources by going on field trips. She also said that the field trip providers are very interested in feedback.
 - b. Mural Update
 - i. The background for the mural was designed by Tracy Early, who was the originator of the ideas. Tracey Hanson has started working on the wall with Mrs. Marley.
 - ii. Mrs. Marley reports that she is pleased with how the progress is coming along and she feels honored to be a part of it. The image continues to be a work in progress.
 - iii. Students will start adding to the artwork tomorrow
 - iv. Wall profiles will be created by using actual students
 - v. Students will be pulled for 30 min-1 hour at a time
 - vi. The project is planned to be close to done the end of the week with details finished up on Saturday.
 - vii. Mrs. Etwiler reported that she is excited that it will be done before the art show.
 - viii. School mission and vision statements will be added to the mural at some point but it is still being discussed
 - c. Art Show 5/5/17

- i. Each student will pick a piece to present and write a statement to go along with their piece.
 - ii. The teacher may record a reading of the statement along with a QR code where parents can hear students reading their art statement.
 - iii. The art will be displayed on a mural, artwork along box towers, and in the gym on tables, wires, and room dividers.
 - iv. Interactive centers include: selfie center, frames on long sheets of butcher paper, post-it note mural, and an outline of starry night where people will do a tissue mosaic to add color to the picture.
 - v. We will have live music such as a local pianist and/or the youth orchestra.
 - vi. There will be advertisements made and notes and newsletters will post information about the art show
 - vii. Mrs. Bowe will add info on the school webpage.
 - viii. Food will be served but these details are still being sorted out.
- d. Campus day 5/22/17
- i. There are many things that happen on the last 3 days of school and instruction will be minimal
 - ii. It was suggested that Monday be a campus day where students break into groups and set up stations where each group will improve the school. Each group will spend about an hour at each station.
 - iii. Some areas include: beautifying the school, working on the trail, cleaning projects,
 - iv. Mrs. Marley asked if we were going to do potatoes this year. Mr. Waltenbaugh reported that there were some scales on the potatoes and it is likely that the team will rotate crops.
 - v. On that Monday, High School students will walk the halls with their caps and gowns.
 - vi. Mr. Waclawski, supports this idea and has spoken with seniors and they shared that they want a chance to talk with classes.
 - vii. High school seniors will visit West Homer Elementary from 10-12.
 - viii. Upcoming events include:
 1. May 22nd- 6th grade promotion 2:30-3:15
 2. May 23rd- Field Day 8:50-11, Lunch BBQ 11-12
 3. May 24th- Awards assembly and class clean up.
- e. Budget and staffing update
- i. Legislative update: Mr. Waltenbaugh presented the following:
 1. House has proposed a flat funding budget for education. In that scenario we will lose 1.5 teachers. The senate has proposed a 5% cut.
 2. Mike Dunleavy was the head of the education committee but Gary Stevens has taken over that position.
 3. A 5% cut would be about 5 million to our district.
 4. A decrease in borough funding will create an overall cut of about about a 6.5 million
 - ii. Even with flat funding, West Homer Elementary will only have two 5th grade teachers creating class sizes of over 30 students.

1. 6th grade teaching positions will be filled by Becky Paul and Erika Thompson. Bobbi Wick's position is cut into a ½ time position
2. Mr. Wick is non retained for budget reasons
3. If there is anything less than flat funding, each class will have over 30 students and there will not be a ½ time teacher for 6th grade.
4. The incoming third grade consists of 76 kids coming in for 3 classes.
5. The PTR for elementary PTR is raised by 1 and the class size of grades k/1/2/3 is expected to be 23 ½,
6. Mrs. Etwiler asked how we can have class sizes that are larger than approved.
 - a. Mr. Waltenbaugh responded by saying that all the other teachers are added to the PTR calculation including Music, PE, and Intervention.
7. Mrs. Marley commented that Alaska is notorious for cutting and then giving us more in the fall.
8. Mr. Waltenbaugh reported that this creates a problem for new teachers. Many good teachers are leaving because they don't know if there will be funding for positions the following year.
9. Mr. Waltenbaugh reported that Gary Stevens created a system of forward funding for a few years but that has not continued.
10. Parents were encouraged to contact representatives and mention that our class sizes will be over 30
11. Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that the Senate proposed a lottery to fund education
12. All members expressed a desire for a sustainable fiscal plan.

3. New Business

a. Educational Elements

1. Mr. Waltenbaugh shared that the district has adopted the services of a company who will provide the district with a districtwide personalized education plan for each student.
2. The district is shifting its resources from print based to OER (open educational resources)
3. Mr. Waltenbaugh reported that part of the work of Educational Elements is to pull in all that the district has to offer and move it forward. They're working with over 115 school districts nationwide. This is a company that was organized and has a clear roll out plan. They chose us because we are already practicing blended learning, differentiated instruction, using codes during art show, etc.
4. Mr. Waltenbaugh is part of a personalized leadership team and he will receive training from Educational Elements in San Francisco in a few weeks.
5. Mrs. Etwiler asked about the background of the group. Mr. Waltenbaugh reported that some of the presenters were former teachers.
6. Mrs. Marley asked about the relationship between no child left behind, common core standards, and peaks testing. Mr. Waltenbaugh explained that these are federal and state entities and that this company is a borough program.
7. Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that the idea of teaching one lesson and expecting students to learn that way is over and we are moving to a more individualized approach.

8. Mrs. Faber commented that each new implemented program is difficult during the rollout but anticipates that it will eventually be helpful.
9. Mrs. Dunn reports that she expects it to be more beneficial to high school kids. She hopes it will reduce teacher effort while increasing outcomes. She is also concerned that individualizing instruction might limit student groups. She mentioned that groups are important to teach young children for many reasons.
10. Mr. Waltenbaugh reported that the initiative is not about replacing teachers with computers.
11. The school board decided the educational elements but were teachers given an opportunity to help with the decision making.
12. Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that education is changing and schools have to change and the district wants to be on the forefront of change
13. Mrs. Marley was concerned and questioned why the district is spending all this money. The district is cutting teachers, increasing class sizes, and now adding new teacher expectations.
14. Mr. Waltenbaugh responded by saying that this program is not expected to replace what we are currently doing but enhance it so we can do it better.
15. He also mentioned that the borough is not spending money but moving resources into the right directions.
16. Mrs. Marley, don't want to add an extra layer of expectations while limiting teachers and increase class sizes.
17. Mr. Waltenbaugh reports that hopefully it will support everything we are doing
18. He also reported that West Homer Elementary is getting two more laptop carts which will likely result in a 1:1 student to computer ratio.

4. Meeting Adjourned: 7:09pm