

USD 497 District Site Council Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2020
4:30-5:30pm – ESC-Little Mac

Present

Members: Bob Byers, Zach Conrad, David Cunningham, Kay Emerson, Kathy Johnson, Marcia Riggins, Dr. Anna Stubblefield, Rachel Thomas

Guests: Dr. Cynthia Johnson

I. Welcome & Introductions

Zachary Conrad introduced himself as new council facilitator following the retirement of Jerri Kemble December 2019. Group members introduced themselves and roles in the district/community. The group moved agenda item 1 ‘Discussion: meeting structure, expectations, etc.’ to the end of the meeting.

II. High School KESA Report: Lawrence High School

Dr. Cynthia Johnson, LHS Interim Principal, shared LHS’ 2019-20 building goals as they pertain to the District’s KESA relationships and relevance goals, as well as strategies to achieve goals and the metrics by which success is measured.

- Relationships: *By May 2020, the percentage of students reporting a sense of belonging at school will increase to 100%, as measured by climate survey results and School Connectedness Survey*
- Relevance: *By May 2020, the percentage of students scoring at Levels 3 and 4 on state assessments in English and Math will increase by 3%in every subgroup. *Revised to performance band on 12/3/19.*

Dr. Johnson also shared a number of school strengths and challenges, which may impact goal achievement. Strengths include strong history and tradition of academic and athletic achievement, a welcoming student population and consistent recognition of award-winning programs (performing arts, journalism, photography). Challenges this year include on-going construction and the associated loss of instructional time and lack of time within the school day to implement social-emotional curriculum.

There was discussion regarding possible timeline for alternative programming at LHS i.e., ‘school within a school’, in response to reported need for additional time for social-emotional curriculum/supports. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Stubblefield shared this is an ongoing conversation, and Dr. Johnson hopes for 2020-2021 school year. Following, a discussion regarding what students would want in such an environment ensued. Dr. Johnson shared students reported a desire for smaller class sizes and increased number of alternative spaces for groups to gather. For example, not

all students feel comfortable eating in the cafeteria; having alternatives would increase students' feelings of safety and security.

Additional questions and discussion was held regarding the purpose and potential of Career Cruising, a platform in which students can gauge career and/or post-secondary interests, prepare Individual Plans of Study and enroll in coursework.

Dr. Johnson passed out flyers for LHS' first 'Listening Learning Lawrence Lions Series', held Thursday, January 16 from 7-8:30pm in the LHS Cafeteria. This meeting, planned and facilitated by LHS students, will 'highlight student voices regarding safety and bring together the Lawrence community.'

III. Discussion: Meeting format, goals for 2019-2020

District Site Council members provided history regarding meeting frequency and purpose of the council for Zachary Conrad, new facilitator. Group members shared the monthly meetings were adequate, and questioned the efficacy of the group if meetings occurred less frequently (loss of contact time). Members further shared history of council giving feedback on athletics and Board of Education goals, and a desire to participate more actively in implementation of building KESA goals, curriculum, and other district initiatives. Members requested to receive guest presentations ahead of the meeting in order to review and prepare questions/discussion items.

IV. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 20, 4:30-5:30pm – ESC-Little Mac

V. Adjournment

Minutes submitted by: Erin Tarnowicz

Date: January 21, 2020