

**MINUTES OF THE
DISTRICT SITE COUNCIL OF
DISTRICT 497- LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

April 19, 2018

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Community Council Members

Bob Byers
Alee Phillips
Chris Souders

District Representatives

Anna Stubblefield, Interim Superintendent
Rick Ingram, BOE Member
Kathy Johnson, Executive Director, Finance
Jeri Kemble- South Middle School
David Cunningham,
Laurie Matney, DSC Member
Dawn Downing, Deputy Clerk

Absent

Myron Graber
Keith Jones
Kelly Jones, BOE Member
Lisa Koppes
Darcy Kraus
Terry McEwen

I. Reports and Discussion

• KESA Update Information-

Jeri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning and technology shared that after reviewing the summarized information regarding the rubrics that the building administrators provided, the 2 R'S chosen to be our focus areas are **Relationships** and **Relevance**. Relationships plus Relevance must equal Results! Each building will have 1 goal for each of these areas.

Relationships focuses on inter-staff relationships, staff relationships with students, school/district relationships with families and the school/district's relationship with the community. Relevance focus on curriculum, instruction, student engagement and the incorporation of technology.

The 8 Foundational Structures that the Kansas Vision for Education is based on are the following-

- Tiered Framework of Supports
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Diversity and Equity
- Communication and Basic Skills

- Civic and Social Engagement
- Physical and Mental Health
- Arts and Cultural Appreciation
- Postsecondary and Career Preparation

We believe that the we are in a really good space with the top 3 foundational structures. The last 5 are the ones that we definitely have room to grow.

As we move forward, we have already recognized areas which we can address by implementing Individual Education Plans (based on a student's individual interest, what they like to do, "their passion" and exposing them accordingly- Hillcrest is ahead of the curve by having numerous clubs from coding to crochet for the students); Partnering Schools (for example an elementary/middle school and allowing a relationship to form between the 2 levels – staff and students) and having Building Level Teams work together instead of in isolation and also more in conjunction with the Executive Leadership Team so that decisions are determined with more insight/perspective from the ones in the buildings having to implement said decisions.

On 4/20, the outside visiting team (OVT) will be here where we will share our current reality and obtain their feedback. They will be visiting Hillcrest and looking at project based learning. It was decided to break it up so that the OVT would start with a visit to an elementary school, next visit- a middle school and lastly-a high school.

- **Fundraising Policy**

David Cunningham, executive director of human resources/legal counsel shared that the board's policy committee has continued to meet and discuss a new policy regarding fundraising. A new draft has been sent back out to building principals and groups to review and provide feedback by 4/30/218. The biggest issues/concerns being addressed are door to door solicitation, who owns the funds (school, PTO/PTA, district), and participation in fundraising is not required for participation in any sport/activity.

The policy committee is working on providing a Q&A regarding fundraising and intend for this policy to be a best practices guide for parent groups.

The tentative plan is for the policy to be a report at the 5/14 board meeting to review and discuss and hear feedback with the final adoption/approval being on the 5/29 board meeting.

- **Budget Planning**

Executive Director of Finance Kathy Johnson shared that the Kansas Legislature approved a school finance bill, but the Kansas State Department of Education notified school districts Monday night that there was a technical glitch. The glitch

was described as an \$80 million difference between what lawmakers may have intended to pass and the final bill they approved.

Ms. Johnson explained that the bill awaiting the Governor's signature would result in approximately \$1.2 million in new state funding for Lawrence Public Schools. This is less than the \$1.7 million increase the district could expect under the current school finance law ruled unconstitutional by the Kansas Supreme Court.

A list of priorities and staff requests (57 items totaling 4.7 million) was provided to the board for possible budget considerations. This was done with the understanding that the state budget picture was still unknown. The board and the district's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) separately assigned rankings to 57 items on this list. Board members reviewed a comparison of those priority rankings at the 4/9 board meeting.

Following items were discussed-

- Options for making up for deficit spending while under the state's block-grant funding period and rebuilding contingency funds for emergencies. (Currently at 2.8 million in deficit spending- we are down to approx. 3.6million in contingency reserve)
- Managing increased operational costs (e.g. utilities, transportation, and employee health benefits, etc.).
- Employee Compensation
- Class Size Reductions
- Safety/Security
- Staffing Increases (such as special education teachers, student services and equity facilitators, instructional learning coaches, library media staff, curriculum facilitators, nursing staff, custodians, and technology services technicians).

There will be more budget work sessions to further discuss whether there are items from the list that they want to drop or move forward with, and what additional information they need prior to making budget decisions in the coming months.

- **Community Conversation**

Superintendent Stubblefield shared that more than 100 staff, parents, and patrons attended the school board's spring Community Conversation on April 3rd at West Middle School. The event was the second this year and included updates on topics the community chose to discuss in the fall-mental health/safety, equity, curriculum and student support.

Board members and administrators also discussed a proposal to move high school start times from 8:05 to 8:30 a.m. in 2019-2020 based on research supporting the academic, health, and well-being benefits of teenagers getting more sleep.

Questions and concerns raised this time on these topics included-

- Curriculum - differentiating instruction for students at varying levels of achievement
- Supervision of what students are doing on their tech devices
- Spelling instruction
- Support for students with special needs
- Equity - LGBTQIA+ supports
- Exploration of alternative high school models to support at-risk students
- Additional training for staff who have completed Beyond Diversity
- Mental Health/Safety/Student Support - assistance for students who are homeless, experience food insecurity or who experience violence
- Reinforced glass for secure school entries
- Timely communication with students during emergencies.

Board members encouraged community advocacy for improved school funding that could support additional resources to serve student mental health needs and salary increases for teachers and staff.

5:03 pm, meeting was adjourned.

- Next meeting date – May 17, 2018