

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

September 20, 2018

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Community Council Members

Bob Byers
Chris Souders

District Representatives

Anna Stubblefield, Deputy Superintendent
Rick Ingram, BOE Member
Kelly Jones, BOE Member
Jerri Kemble, Assistant Superintendent
David Cunningham, Executive Director, HR
Kathy Johnson, Executive Director, Finance
Darcy Kraus, Director, Elementary Support
Keith Jones- Principal, South Middle School
Laurie Matney, CE Staff Representative
Dawn Downing, Deputy Clerk

Absent

Myron Graber
Alee Phillips

The meeting opened with Dr. Stubblefield welcoming everyone and thanking them for their ongoing participation. Due to Dr. Lewis having a Listening and Learning Tour at one of the middle schools, several people in the room needed to leave in order to attend. As such, Mrs. Stubblefield rearranged the agenda.

I. Reports and Discussion

• **KESA Update Information (2 R's)-**

Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning and technology, shared a brief review regarding the KESA process.

- KESA is the new accreditation plan for the state. Each district receives accreditation vs each individual building.
- KESA Framework is based on the Five R's which evaluates school improvement efforts-
 - Relationships
 - Relevance
 - Responsive Culture
 - Rigor
 - Results (Final "R" is outcome of the other 4)
- All building leadership teams completed a rubric for their building based on the R's aforementioned.
- After review, district administration selected 2 R's as the official district areas to focus on for the accreditation cycle-

- Relationships
- Relevance

**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 focuses on curriculum, instruction, student engagement and the incorporation of technology.*

- Based on the 2 R's that the district as a whole is focused- each building has developed goals related to these areas. The deadline to submit those goals was Sept. 14th
- After district review and feedback, building leadership will start defining action steps.
- Just as each school had to develop goals in each area, there needed to be 2 specific district goals as well. Mrs. Kemble shared them with the group-
 - Goal 1
 - Goal 2

There was discussion surrounding the broad/generalness of these goals in order to fully encompass all the school's specific goals.

The next step is to share this information with the school board and then create action steps.

• **Negotiations/Budget Update**

David Cunningham, executive director of human resources/legal counsel shared that negotiations are at Impasse. In summary, we were unable to reach agreement in 3 specific areas-

- 2 Language related items
- Compensation

Mainly there is a difference in opinion regarding money allocation. For this school year, the district received approx. 4 million in new money. The board decided to start putting money back into this fund so that we would have it when we needed it- specifically, 1.4 million dollars is slated to go into this fund this year and next.)

Teachers do not want this money to offset our deficit spending- they want it available for compensation.

Both sides of the table (District Administration and Lawrence Education Association) will start Mediation on Oct. 10th. The next step after this is fact finding by an impartial 3rd party who will render a non-binding decision. After that, the group will go back to the table to try to reach an agreement.

Kathy Johnson, executive director of finance, shared that unless our enrollment grows, there will be no increase in funding next year. The audit of this year's FTE will determine the budget for next year and will continue to follow that formula (previous year's FTE determines budget). Today, September 20th is the official count day.

Last year, our enrollment dropped by 47 students. However, we were able to use the declining enrollment provision which allowed us to utilize the previous year's budget for the current year. (It remained flat- no increase or decrease)

Additionally, we are in year 2 (last year available) of having access to new facility funds-the calculations equaled out to approx. 65 FTE. Therefore, in order to obtain an increase in funding for next year, we will need to have over 100 students more than last year.

Non-resident transfers (parent choice vs building availability) and boundaries (reviewing/changing boundary lines to move students to different buildings in order to accommodate space) were items briefly discussed.

- **High School Start Time**

Rick Ingram, current school board member, shared the following information regarding the High School Start Time Advisory Committee-

- This group's charge is to make a recommendation to the school board by January 2019 regarding implementation for 2019-20 school year of changing the high school start time to 8:30 am (from 8:05am) in order to promote health and academic benefits for students associated with getting additional sleep.
- Group has met 4 times (June, July, Aug & Sept).
- Their discussions can be summarized into the following areas-
 - Establishing Group Norms
 - Research
 - The Process
 - Focus Groups/Surveys
- Mr. Ingram shared that there is a lot of research available on this issue. There is a PowerPoint presentation that was shared with this particular committee that will also be provided to DSC members to review. California has a bill on the table that will mandate schools not start before 8:30 am for the entire state. Decision is pending.
- We realize that all this does not simply impact the start of the day but also the end of the day.
- We have reached out to Patron Insight to create surveys to be given to our community and focus groups.

Deputy Superintendent Stubblefield shared that Patron Insight feels it is important to

have a phone component. They are wanting to contact 100 parents from each high school in addition to the direct email to students, staff and parents.

The high school advisory council discussed numerous people to be involved in the focus groups but it was narrowed down to the following-

- Staff Group at each high school
- 2 student groups at each high school (cross section of all students)
 - Important to make contact with disengaged students (not subjectively chosen but through data- nonattendance, failing classes, behavioral concerns, etc.)
- Parent Group (comprised of people who applied for this committee but were not chosen, District Site council members, PTO members)
- DELTA & Equity Advisory Group Participants
- Considering Middle School Parents and upcoming 8th graders

Deputy Superintendent Stubblefield shared that the possible scenarios to choose between would be-

- No Change- schedule will stay as it is
- Start at 8:30 am (and end at 3:30 pm)
- Start at 9:00 am (and end at 4pm)
- Staggered Start (7am – 5 pm with student and staff options for start/end time)

Patron Insight will have a draft survey soon to review with all the specifics.

The next High School Advisory meeting will be October 4.

- **Class Size**

Superintendent Stubblefield shared that there are currently 3 tiers for the threshold numbers that we use regarding class size-

- K-2
- Grade 3
- Grades 4 & 5

Grades K-2 range can go up to 26, with Grade 5 being as high as 31. A chart with the schools, grades and threshold numbers was distributed and discussed. (See attached). For example, at Deerfield Elementary in grade 5, the threshold number is 31. If Deerfield has two 5th grade classrooms, each classroom would have to have 31 children in them before adding another student in order for a new section/teacher to be added.

It was explained that the schedule for the fall is created in March/April and is simply based on projections. We must adjust accordingly within our parameters.

Great discussion on community prioritizing small neighborhood schools in previous years and this issue being discussed at that time in conjunction with how building size is such a huge factor.

- **Membership**

Superintendent Stubblefield reviewed the membership criteria with the group. In the guidelines, it states, “the term of membership for each member shall be a period of two years, and shall be eligible for appointment for an additional two- year term.”

As you recall, this group was originally the Finance Advisory Council. In December 2016 it was renamed and given additional responsibilities. In June 2016, additional parameters and people were added to the group via board approval.

District staff will follow up to determine if we need to use the original dates that people started on the Finance Committee or if it all begins as of June 2016 because that is when the majority of people started on the committee. If the latter is the case, June 2018 would be the end of the first term and we would just need your consent that you want to continue for another term (expires June 2020).

Based on the guidelines, we are in need of additional members. Since last year and this year, we have had a few resignations from this committee. We are in need of-

- 1 community member
- 1 certified staff member
- 2 classified staff members

Previous community members had to submit an application. We will look into revisiting this and getting the information out to the community. If you know anyone whom you believe would be a good fit for this committee, please share with Dawn Downing (ddowning@usd497.org). The certified and classified staff were appointed by district administration and Deputy Superintendent Stubblefield will oversee this.

4:57 pm, meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting date – October 18, 2018