

Liberty Memorial Central Middle School 2020-21 Site Council

Attendees: Jenny Skillman, Anne Hawks, Lysette DeBoard, Michelle Fales, Tresa McAhane, Melissa Freiburger, Natasha, Ben Sikes, Ammie Holden, Carol Cadue-Blackwood, Jackie Stafford, Katie Hoke, Tremayne Horn, Josh Spradlin, Erica Seagraves

Agenda Monday, February 1st at 5:30pm

1) Attendance Info -

- a) **Average daily attendance:** the district's COVID dashboard shows statistics from last year, but the attendance secretary also ran a report for Rick Henry. Average daily attendance from fall of last year was in the 90% and an absence rate of 10% or less. Spring absence rate last year was still below 10% and the daily attendance was 90% or higher. Fall of this year (September through December) absence was 14%-21% and 78%-86% for attendance. Eighth graders are higher in attendance, but they are also the smallest of the class sizes. District received the LMCMS report last week.
- b) **USD497 COVID Dashboard comparison:** District website's dashboard has percentages from this year versus last year and is up-to-date by week. Last week, LMCMS had 74.92% attendance rate. This is excused and unexcused. Parents don't always state why the child is absent. If it is health related, LMCMS doesn't probe unless it is becoming a habit of absences. There have been some conversations about needing student's cameras turned on, but there are many students that need the privacy of leaving it off. At the last school board meeting, - they were going to have a specified number of backgrounds so every student could universally apply it to obscure their environment. A teacher can also mute, but the background would allow visual connection. Julie Boyle's email did not have this information in it. If we are addressing the equity issue and creating a level playing field, why did this change? Dr. Hawks is unsure why it changed. The daily post that came out was amended. Now students are unable to use virtual backgrounds. Ms. Stafford's class wasn't thrilled with the idea of using backgrounds, but most of the students in her flex class could figure out how to use the backgrounds on their iPads. Some students are using their own computers. WebEx is different from Zoom for using backgrounds. Also the middle schooler's iPads work differently than the high schooler's MacBooks. Balance between kids not being distracted by each other with classes in the 30s. Students know to turn off cameras to better see the video and help reduce lagging. Going to transition into it and talk about it at the staff meeting on Wednesday. Initial goal

is to promote engagement. Could the students have a profile picture up? Use polling questions or other methods to keep the students engaged besides video or chat? Teachers are getting creative with this. Board meeting also talked about accountability on top of engagement - kids check in and then turn off their cameras. It does happen and if they are doing it in one class they are probably doing it in other classes too.

- 2) **Eli- Update:** Student Support Facilitator. Restorative practices parent nights are being held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:45 PM and Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:45 PM

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfj_B6LRM15HHRkGG3HpYhVIRiAK4ODC1uIVfYrefv2e_rq3A/viewform?usp=sf_link

All four middle schools work in concert together to host informational night. The whole school culture hinges on school wide communication and relationship building. These nights will share key information like the direction the district is moving in and what capacity the staff will be working with the students. Fill the form out by the Feb. 18 to secure your spot and receive your invites for the section. Questions can go to Mr. Horn. Biggest impact will be not seeing kids suspended for poor decisions. Restorative practices are more meaningful and repair harm from what happened. Mustang Academy 2.0 identifies students that are struggling academically and have behavior issues. Mustang academy works with them half days to improve relationship capacity with those learning and develop relationships earlier before they act out or get behind instead of waiting for disengagement. Kicked off today with two students and expect four more to join tomorrow. Question on how long they stay in the academy. Did Mustang Academy at the beginning of the school year and had students that didn't qualify for it the next semester. This is an intervention and not a placement so the goal is to get them in to work on their own and learn independently so they might transition out. Being successful at being unsuccessful will get you in there but being successful at being successful will get you out.

- 3) **Ammie- Update:** Parent Involvement Facilitator and in charge of food pantry. Trying to get families in need of food to sign up for five free breakfast and lunches to pick up. Delivery also available. Parents can fill out the form online. There are also resources to help with rent, heating, gas, or light. Feb. 8 at 5:30 is the first meeting of a family engagement committee to build stronger relationships between parents, faculty, and staff. Student of the month will start this month. The criteria is any student with 80% attendance no D's or F's, no office referrals, and 80% of work turned in. We'll run a report, attend team meetings to say how many students from each grade the teachers can choose from to nominate 5 students from each grade. Winners will get lunches from Jimmy Johns or another special place and be entered into a drawing for the student that gets a yard sign.

- 4) **Facility Update:** Paula Murrish and Thomas helping with capital outlay money. Money leftover from past projects. Forwarded the LMCMS wish list to Paula.
- a) **FACS room:** room on the 4th floor has had issues with hot water. Can't do food labs right now since we can't wash dishes without hot water. They are working on fixing this. It is a priority. In the past, the district did have renovations for those rooms at West and LMCMS slated for capital outlay. They achieved more with the bond than they thought, but when Tony and Jenny talked a year ago he did recognize that it was a big need. Not sure if the other middle schools were updated. Would this information help it rise to the top of Paula's list and get on a more imminent list for capital outlay? Also a big picture pie in the sky was getting the science rooms updated. LMCMS will always have a future bond need.
 - b) **South steps:** Teacher fell on steps during fire drill - this is the limestone step at south entrance by the garden. Step has eroded away. Painted yellow and put signs up, but will be replacing step and putting in a guardrail on both sides.
 - c) **Parking lot:** pick up line in the parking lot is very bad. Children running out into the parking lot and parents are also parking down 14th street. Potential for accidents is high. Ideally you want cars to pick up on a curb so students aren't going into the parking lot. Worked with a city contractor to put together a proposal for the parking lot. Shared this document. Put median in between parking lot spaces facing north and the ones facing south to create a pick up line that funnels by the curb. Losing one parking spot on the other side since they are 60 degree parking spots. Found out that we are required to have 56 parking stalls in at LMCMS and we would have 78 even with this plan. It would also include landscaping and arrows. No real time line right now. Mike Perryman is helping at the district. This project sounds like it might be a combination of the donor family's \$80,000 safety enhancement funds and capital outlay. Probability is higher of getting it done since we have the funding, but we still have uncertainty due to COVID. Possibly construction this summer?
 - d) **Officers:** Jenny Skillman is chair, Ben Sikes is vice chair. Can staff fill the secretary position since our bylaws state that not all positions should be filled with just staff or just parents? Josh can fill in to take notes if needed.
- 5) **Topics for next month:** opportunities for summer school, school garden, district's fall COVID plans with no vaccine for students 16 and under (until the health department lifts 6 foot restrictions we'll have to stay at reduced capacity anyway. Principals starting to meet about the coming year and plans.)