



Prairie Elementary School

Home & School Meeting November 10, 2020

Zoom Virtual Meeting - 3:00pm

Attendance: BZ, JB, EK, NK, NA, AD, MP, DL, SO, MS, SV, KB, CR, JC, AS, MR, NW, CT, ML, LK, JJ, MW, IV, AK, AA, LH, SM, SS, AA, KV

A. CALL TO ORDER at 3:01pm by EK

B. WELCOME

a. Acknowledgment of recording and guidelines for the Zoom meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Review of October H&S Meeting Minutes

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ET\\_-ErMa8XsdMZtLuf8IUBIb5gMt6ZIOG0tQ9tlnTLo/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ET_-ErMa8XsdMZtLuf8IUBIb5gMt6ZIOG0tQ9tlnTLo/edit?usp=sharing)

b. Approval of October 2020 Minutes, as distributed by JC, seconded by MP.

D. SECRETARY REPORT

a. Correspondence

- i. Thank you note from Mrs. Bartman.
- ii. Thank you note from Mrs. Kurtides.
- iii. Thank you note from Mrs. Arzadon

E. GUEST

a. Question and Answer with School Board Representative Paul Leong - Paul reminded the group that he is speaking for himself and is just one member of the board. The following is a summarization of the questions from H&S and Mr. Leong's answers.

- i. Q: Why do we make decisions based on cases not outcomes?
  1. A: I Make decisions based on a variety of metrics. I try to make my scope as broad as possible. The Dupage County Board of Health is the primary source of information for the Superintendent. I Disagree with the other board members and the resolution to give Dan Bridges the power to make all decisions. I am trying to live with the decision of the board. I want to listen to the collective "you" so I can represent you better. There are two extremes with very different opinions. I would like to provide better options. We can't make everyone happy, but we can make better options to make people less unhappy. I do think we can offer better options for both groups. However, the board has resolved to give all authority to the superintendent. The majority of the board has kids in the district.
- ii. Q: Is there a specific time frame that was given for the Superintendent to have all decision making power?
  1. A: The resolution was open ended with no end date. I do not know when it is going to end.
- iii. Q: With the metric of the number of hospital beds as the rationale to shut down, what do you make of the mental health facilities opening extra floors to manage the influx of school aged children and teens? Does that factor in your discussion?

1. A: I hear that regularly. We are fully aware. I make sure to forward these emails to the superintendent. At this point I am merely supporting the decisions of the superintendent. I consider the voters to be my customers when I make decisions. Prior to this year, I thought I was doing a good job. Right now our customers are very upset with us. This suggests to me that we could be doing a better job.
- iv. Q Why can other districts have in person learning and we can't?
  1. A: I compare district 203 to Stevenson, New Trier, and Walter Payton Prep. These are the schools that I envy and want to be as good as or better.
- v. Q: Does the board reach out to the other school districts or private schools?
  1. Yes they do, in addition there are regular meetings between school districts. The School Board President attends a Board President meeting that is attended by all Dupage County presidents. We are in regular contact with boards all over the state.
- vi. Q: Regarding the Issue of liability insurance, can you explain? Are we underinsured?
  1. A: There is a small group of students that is back in the schools. Regarding insurance, I have looked at our policies. I don't know any more about that than you do at this point. We have brought it up. What does that mean? Do we need to buy further insurance? There are many and frequent lawsuits against the district. We have to consider if what we are about to do is going to create a variety of lawsuits and how will that affect the financial condition of the district. There are open lawsuits against me personally. The district has a substantial surplus. We are a well funded district. The surplus in the tens of millions of dollars.
- vii. Q: Why haven't children with IEP/504s been allowed back in the buildings?
  1. A: Students with an IEP/504 are getting priority. Each child is evaluated individually for need.
- viii. Q: Does the board have a measure of the number of students not complying with online learning? How many aren't performing up to the standards?
  1. A: We have programs in place to supply internet to students with insufficient internet. As far as other students that are underserved, I have no additional statistics or numbers, I've been told we are collecting information, but don't have anything to share. We have attendance statistics only.
- ix. Q: Since we have had no testing since February, Are there plans to implement standardized testing this year?
  1. A: I have been told to direct parents to the principal of their school and the calendar of testing that they have. However, that calendar is changing and evolving. Mr. Zallis spoke and said the testing calendar is on hold.
- x. Q: What is Dan Bridges reasoning for not returning to in person learning? What has his communication been to the board members on that? Have we talked to private schools that are back and have had success?
  1. A: When I talk to Superintendent Bridges, most of the time he refers me to information from the Dupage Board of Health, the Illinois Board of Health, and ISBE. Those are the ones that he repeats the most in our conversations. There is a fairly consistent and unified message from the Superintendent and his cabinet.
- xi. Q: Are there any plans for a public forum for parents to discuss possible solutions to return to learn with the board?

1. A: At board meetings parents address the board and we listen. We also get hundreds of phone calls and emails. I appreciate the passion of those parents and want to give them the services that they think are appropriate. I went to bat, hard for parents. At this point, there are no votes regarding these plans. We do communicate this to the superintendent during open and closed sessions. Although that is unsatisfactory to me as a parent, I'm trying to support those decisions as a board member.

## F. PRESIDENT REPORT

### a. Thank Yous

- i. Kim Vigue and Maggie Leen for organizing our first Eat Out event at Mod Pizza on 10/6/2020.
- ii. Colleen Troupis for co-chairing Yearbook.
- iii. Yearbook committee for creating the photo sharing site.
- iv. Liza Hood and the Yearbook committee for Halloween backdrops.
- v. Liza Hood for getting the ball rolling on setting up Room Parents.
- vi. Dana Hall for organizing the Pumpkin Decorating Contest.
- vii. Maggie Rubin for Prairie Paws-itivity Pals idea.
- viii. Amy Amato and Erika Gerdes of the Staff Appreciation--Food Committee for providing lunch for the staff on 10/30/2020.
- ix. Hillary Lafferty from the Staff Appreciation--Gifts committee for OT appreciation day on 10/27/2020 and School Psychologist Awareness Week, this week.

### b. Link to my notes from the District H&S meeting:

- i. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cN\\_bik7fNY69I-bXrFDRCYEX5AWJ8f\\_vVOnoJU-5-Fs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cN_bik7fNY69I-bXrFDRCYEX5AWJ8f_vVOnoJU-5-Fs/edit?usp=sharing)
- ii. When you have a concern with your child start with talking to the teacher and school administration before moving on to the district level.
- iii. When you need to contact the district please do so using the Let's Talk feature:  
<https://www.naperville203.org/domain/61>

### c. Flyer Reminder - Please get approval from Emily and Mr. Zallis for flyers. Please make sure H&S logo is on your flyer.

### d. Prairie Paws-itivity Pals Program Update

- i. 128 students signed up.

## G. VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

## H. TREASURER REPORT

### a. Review current year account reconciliations, P/L reports and transaction detail reports

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11jrGDNwKqA0x-fRHAzb7IO\\_RVSvBdPR?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11jrGDNwKqA0x-fRHAzb7IO_RVSvBdPR?usp=sharing)

- i. Savings Account - \$5,002.02
- ii. Checking Account - \$50,834.97
- iii. Approval of reports, as distributed by MP, seconded by KV.

### b. 2020-2021 Budget Worksheet for reference

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11lqs9lo6SQQCzs7YqB6vMce9-uDuv8Nr/view?usp=sharing>

### c. Policy reminders

- i. Money needs to go through Prairie
- ii. Tax exempt form on Volunteer Drive
- iii. 2 signatures needed on deposit forms

## I. PRINCIPAL REPORT

- a. The district continues to watch the metrics as well as partner with the DuPage County Health Department as well as the IDPH to determine when it is safe to bring students back into the building. The staff and I appreciate your patience and support. As information is made available, I will keep you informed.
- b. There is no school on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. This day will be used as a remote planning and professional learning day for all staff.
- c. Mrs. Callaghan shared with the staff as well as her students and families that she is expecting a new bundle of joy in May.
- d. Upcoming Events
  - i. We are hosting a virtual Veterans Day Assembly. Students will view an abbreviated version of our typical Veterans Day assembly. Like last year, Ms. Brandes put together a wonderful slide show to honor veterans in the Prairie community.
  - ii. All school and family virtual assembly with Tim Hannig's Pro Kids will be held on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
  - iii. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Battle of the Books will host their 1<sup>st</sup> virtual meeting this Thursday at 7:30. Information was shared with students last week.
  - iv. We will also be hosting a virtual book fair as well as the Jingle Bell Junction.

## J. Raffle Prize - "Siblingsgiving" - Winner Colleen Troupis

## K. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - Mrs. Callaghan

- a. Please express our gratitude for lunch on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>! It was wonderful to not have to think about lunch that day (especially a Friday!) and be treated to a delicious meal.
- b. The Halloween backdrops were such a fun idea for students to celebrate the holiday! Thank you for looking for ways to keep students connected to Prairie.
- c. Teachers are so appreciative for the patience and flexibility from families as our schedules have changed a couple of times in the last few weeks!!

## L. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Verbal
  - i. Nicole Anderson spoke for BoxTops. Fall submission was \$64.80 (much lower than in years past), so keep scanning! If you do online grocery shopping, you can forward your receipt to [reciepts2boxtops4education.com](http://reciepts2boxtops4education.com).
  - ii. Maggie Rubin spoke for Book Fair. Information will be coming soon in the WAAG. There will be a wish list for Andersons and a FlipGrid with One Minute Book Previews.
  - iii. Shannon Olson spoke for Yearbook. Thank you to Colleen Troupis for volunteering to co-chair and to the other new volunteers. There are classroom files to drop in any pictures you have. See WAAG for the information on the drop off of 5th Grade pictures (Colleen Troupis' house). Yearbook sales have begun. The theme for the yearbook this year is, "Together We Got This."
  - iv. Liza Hood spoke for Room Parents. Room parents should have received an email about how to show your teacher your appreciation.
  - v. Megan Pagnucci spoke for Staff Gift Cards. Staff Gift Cards will now all be processed through Give Smart. Opening day will be November 13th and will be open until December 1st. Information to come soon.
- b. Written Reports attached

M. NEW BUSINESS

N. UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. Wednesday, November 18th, Education Support Professionals Day
- b. Wednesday, November 18th, 7pm, Tim Hannig Virtual Assembly
- c. November 25th-27th, No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
- d. Monday, November 30th-Sunday, December 6th, *Finding Brightness Through Books* book fair

Motion to adjourn at 4:25pm by LH, seconded by MP

## **H&S Committee Reports** **Month: November 2020**

**Committee:** Staff Gift Cards

**Chairperson(s):** Meghan Lymangood, Colleen Troupis and Megan Pagnucci

**Email:** [praiirstaffgiftcards@gmail.com](mailto:praiirstaffgiftcards@gmail.com)

**Report:** We are excited to be launching the optional holiday gift card program for staff members. Families can confidentially contribute to a gift card for staff members to select. We are starting the process earlier this year

and will be offering electronic gift cards. Final details are being worked out but please be on the look out for a GiveSmart link with more information in the WAAG. Thank you!

Submitted by AD