

Mueller Park Community Council Meeting
January 25, 2016
6:45 – 7:30 A.M.
Office Conference Room
Minutes

Attendance: Mrs. Kapetanov, John Tobin, Jeff Smith, Brenda Raccaia, Brett Ure, Julie Jensen, Michelle Spackman, Amy Nydegger, Kevin Poff, Claire Cassity

Excused: Jessica Gunn

Approval of November minutes: Motioned by Brenda Raccaia and seconded by Brett Ure. There was a unanimous approval by the Community Council (John Tobin, Jeff Smith, Julie Jensen, Amy Nydegger, Michelle Spackman, Kevin Poff and Claire Cassity).

Fundraiser Report: Mrs. Kapetanov reported that Jessica Gunn and Seletha Deru worked hard as the Technology Fundraiser Chairpersons. \$10,500 was raised over a two-week period. Mrs. Kapetanov applied for a matching innovative grant where we received \$5,000. With the matching innovative grant, a total over \$15,000 was raised. The grant was very specific as to how the money could be used. The grant money will be used to purchase a Smart board for Mrs. Holty and five iPads for the school. The technology group will meet to see how the additional \$10,000 raised will be spent. The next technology fundraiser will be held in the Spring of 2017. Jessica Gunn had a goal that every child who participated would receive a prize. Her goal was realized and an assembly was held to celebrate those that participated. Thank you to all those who participated and contributed to make this a very successful fundraiser.

Student Achievement:

District Goal #1 – To increase the percentage of students scoring at or above college readiness benchmarks on all four EXPLORE subtests from 20% to 22% (2% increase or approximately 5 students). Mrs. Kapetanov said that we need to have five more students score above Benchmarks. We will compare last year's scores to this year's scores. We do not have results yet.

District Goal #2 – Reduce the number of students who are credit deficient from **14%** to **12%** (reduction of **6** students.) Mrs. Kapetanov said that students took the Math screener recently to identify students who have missed concepts taught in Semester 1.

Parent Teacher Conferences Term 3 – Mrs. Kapetanov said that there has been some interest in having Parent Teacher Conferences in the teacher's classrooms instead of in the gym. She said there are pros and cons to both. Mrs. Ure said that she likes them in the gym. Brenda Raccaia said that she likes them in the gym so that teachers can see who is in line. She thought this might be easier for teachers to keep conferences within an appropriate time limit if they

could see who is in line. John Tobin wondered if there would be more privacy if they were held in the classroom. Mr. Poff said that there is less ambient noise in the classroom so there really is less privacy within the classroom. Jeff Smith said that he likes getting into the classroom so he would prefer to have at least one conference in the classroom. Amy Nydegger said that she wants it held in the gym. Ms. Cassity said that this time it would be best to have it in the gym. The Counselors are planning a Parent Student University for all 9th grade students where outside speakers will talk with students and parents about being college ready, applying for college, scholarships, financial aid, NCAA etc. The Counselors would like to hold the breakout sessions in a few of the teacher's classrooms. Brenda Raccuia suggested that it would be best to have the conference with the smallest attendance held in the teacher classrooms. Community Council agreed to hold the Term 2 Parent Teacher Conferences in the classrooms next year.

PLC Institute Report – Mrs. Kapetanov reported on the Professional Learning Communities conference recently attended by numerous teachers and Administration. She said that a PLC is a more collaborative approach to teaching. Departments determine what is important to teach (key points) and create common assessments between teachers. The teachers then get back together to assess how students did on the common assessment, decide what needs to be retaught and implement remediation. Mrs. Kapetanov said that a guiding coalition would meet this Wednesday to discuss the implementation at MPJH. Mrs. Kapetanov said that she sees it as a three-year process. Kevin Poff said that it was a valuable conference to attend. He said that they clarified what a Professional Learning Community is. They said that it requires an institutional change. Mrs. Kapetanov said there is a PLC hybrid this summer at the Davis Conference Center that is about 1/3 the cost as the full conference. It would be beneficial if more staff could attend the hybrid conference. She continued by saying that the PLC approach takes all of the good things happening within a classroom and also allows time for teacher collaboration. Amy Nydegger asked as to how it would be implemented. Mrs. Kapetanov said that once we get everyone trained, teachers will be accountable to their peers to participate, and teachers are also accountable to the Principal. For example, if a teacher says “my kids didn’t do as well on this concept as the other teacher, how did you teach that?” Teachers will discuss whether they are really accomplishing the things that we are planning. Amy Nydegger asked if teachers are willing to change. Mrs. Kapetanov said those teachers who went to the conference are willing to implement the change. PLC is data driven. Kevin Poff said that in order for it to work, you have to institutionalize the change so that it can work. It has to be the culture of the school. Everyone needs to understand the process and understand where it is going. Brenda Raccuia said that the more people that attend the upcoming Hybrid training the better the rollout of the program. Amy Nydegger said that if we can really implement the program then it is worth the money of the conference. John Tobin asked if Mrs. Kapetanov would bring examples from teachers who are using common assessments so Community Council can see how they are re-teaching. Mrs. Kapetanov said that it is going to take time to institutionalize it within the school. Kevin Poff recommended that it would be helpful if a couple of Community Council members could attend Hybrid training in the summer.

PTO – Kirsten Mele was not able to attend. The PTO recently discussed changes to the 9th Grade Recognition Night. Previously the PTO collected data over the student's three years in junior high school. Students were then recognized for two of their accomplishments at the Recognition Night. They have decided to change and ask students which two accomplishments they would like to be recognized for while in junior high school. Community Council agreed that this was a positive change to 9th Grade Recognition Night.

Davis Educational Foundation auction baskets: Mrs. Kapetanov said that the PTO would donate a basket to the Davis Educational Foundation Gala. The PTO wondered if the Community Council would be interested in donating a basket as well. The baskets are due March 12. Brett Ure and Michelle Spackman will be in charge of the basket to be donated.

Counseling – Claire Cassity reported that the Counselors were finishing all individual CCR conferences for 8th grade students and their parents. The remaining 9th Grade CCRs will begin on February 16 and go through March 8. Conferences were held in the Fall for many of the 9th grade students. Those students will not need to schedule for a conference in February. Ms. Cassity said that they were changing the registration process for the incoming 7th grade students this year. The Counselors and Administration will meet with 6th grade students and parents during the school day at their elementary schools. All parents have already been notified of their appointment time.

Panther Preview – All 6th grade students who will attend Mueller Park for the 2016-2017 school have been invited to attend Panther Preview February 3 from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Students will be able to preview activities in each department, meet teachers and receive answers to their questions. We look forward to seeing our incoming 7th grade class on Wednesday night.

Adjourn: Motioned by Mrs. Kapetanov and seconded by Amy Nydegger. There was a unanimous approval by the Community Council (John Tobin, Jeff Smith, Julie Jensen, Brett Ure, Brenda Raccuia, Michelle Spackman, Kevin Poff and Claire Cassity).