

Wilmette Junior High School / Highcrest Middle School PTO

Fall General Joint PTO Meeting

Joint General Board Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2017

Highcrest Middle School

****DRAFT****

Robin Cook and Jen Finger (WJHS and Highcrest PTO Presidents) Presiding

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM

In Attendance

Kelly Jackson, Doug Wernet, Dr. Ray Lechner, Becky Cross, (plus audience)

Liaison Role Introduction; Becky Cross, Spanish teacher

Taking on liaison role, working more closely with clubs and getting teachers and students involved. Promoting clubs now. Offering updates as they happen.

2017 Meeting Goals:

Jen Finger: The goal for the meetings this year was for a more content rich approach.

Robin Cook:

- Also putting in place a teacher liaison at WJHS.
- Same objectives: become more of a team working together instead of separate entities
- Also plug to IGNITE:
 - WJH donation up to 70% fro A to Z
 - Primary way we send our children to enrichments, from speakers to class trips
 - Important, allows children who don't have funds to participate
 - We appreciate ANY donation: we ask for each child to have a donation

Volunteers: not as many opportunities at WJH as kids are getting more involved. Less roles, but always cafeteria, LMC, social dance available. Please continue to jump in where you can. At Highcrest, need Freaky Friday volunteers and Make a Difference Day.

Jen: Have been focused on providing weekend and evening opportunities on purpose.

Speaker Series: Started talking with Lechner about making the meetings more meaningful and relevant to kids, teachers and parents. Focus is on meaningful events and discussions that matter. Next speaker, Nov 7, Navigating Social Conflicts. Kind of like a mini FAN. Kids will also be learning about it too in class.

- March: All on website - Mindfulness
- Huge thanks to Lisa Fabes who worked at district Level
- Again, focus is One Campus and partner oriented

Dr. Lechner:

- New School hours
- Schedule changes
- Transportation schedule changes
- New Strategic initiatives
 - Kindergarten Enrichment
 - Full day possible? Not in terms of space or cost. Someone asked about fee based. Opening that door again and looking at it.
- D39 Instrumental Music program
 - Independent program being reviewed
- Personalized learning
 - Looking at how to better leverage
- School climate: creating a culture of empathy
 - Year 2 developing
- School attendance
 - Looking at increasing positive attendance from 67% to 75%
- Student growth: response to growth intervention
 - Year 2 developing
 - Personalized tool map to ensure growth targets
- Sustainability planning
 - Year 2: continuing
- Learning commons:
 - Year 2, Romona and McKenzie
 - Year 3 will replicate at Harper/WJHS
 - Multi year plan to review space, which is really tight
 - Board began initiative last year to review
 - Proposing 2 story addition
 - Proposing front office additions and lounge, including nurses suite where parents check in, just like other schools
 - Current offices could be new learning commons, taking up a bit of the garden, but not too much
 - Phase 1&2, \$8M
 - Phase 3 and 4: ripping up cafeteria and moving
 - All phases separate and distinct, so board has control each year
 - Finances solid through 2021
 - Questions: **state funding?**
 - No property tax fee proposed
 - For districts that have more resources like Wilmette, we will be frozen
 - Do those projections include 4 phases of highcrest? YES!
 - Positive attendance - is that tied to anything?
 - We identified a concern. Now all districts are monitored by the state. We are on track to deliver - 2 years ahead.

- Does attendance correlate with achievement? For some students, yes. More prevalent in high school, college and beyond.
- **Kelly Jackson:**
 - Thanks to Jim Mockus for setting up all the audio/visual
 - Thanks to Highcrest PTO for the sound gift; new microphone; it's wireless and it's awesome!
 - "We are"... The 5-8 Campus - that's our theme
 - We are hawks and wolves (honest, accountable, walkers, who are kind and safe, WOLVES: trustworthy, on time, engaged in learning, valuable, respectful and safe)
 - We remind kids through the year
 - Kids sending us photos to show examples
 - What does it mean?
 - Core values as staff; students; monthly themes; goal areas
 - October is bullying prevention month: We are upstanders - will be promoting that; homerooms, announcements, etc.
 - Themes follows campus goals:
 - *We are Inclusive*
 - October: #weareupstanders
 - Feb: #wearekind
 - Mix it up at lunch day
 - Student advisory board
 - School-wide behaviour and response
 - Talking now more about restorative processes. We are a community and have relationships. And if we don't act in a responsible way, we damage it. So how do we repair it? More reflective process now. Will evaluate throughout year.
 - *We are Risk-Takers:*
 - Flexible learning environments
 - Mobile learning
 - 4Cs and application in classrooms and beyond
 - New related studies classes
 - Personalization of learning
 - New class called integrated global studies; designed for kids to direct their learning. Problem or project based learning model. Will rotate focus.
 - Also actors workshop class
 - Computational thinking class with coding for 6th graders, aligned with elementary.
 - New african drumming class at WJH

- *We are Growing*
 - WIN What I Need Classes
 - NWEA MAP - looks at growth of all students; especially the top group - how do we keep them on that path and challenge them, as well as all the other groups.
 - Feedback to improve learning
 - Engaging students in new ways
 - Growth of all students
- *We ARE a CONNECTED COMMUNITY*
 - One campus. One book. (kids)
 - One campus. One book. (teachers).
 - Common #hashtags across campus
 - Parent nights/PTO meetings
 - Progress reporting (semesters) will feed into the growth mindset
- We are hawks, wolves, wilmette!!!
- Question: Harper changing standards and characteristics of successful learners? It is similar but different; we will look at it next year.

The next joint general board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 8 at 9:15 AM in the Highcrest Middle School cafeteria. *The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 AM.*