

**Wayne Council of PTOs
President/Superintendent Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 8, 2014
Preakness Building**

Jackie Prince opened the meeting at 9:28am wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Superintendent Report: Dr. Gonzalez began the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Directories

- Dr. Gonzalez apologized for what has come about with the school directories. Directories drew the administrations attention last year since personal information is collected and released even with parent consent. The district pays for the printing of these directories. It was decided to take a look at this process and collect the data through the district rather than the manual process done at each school.
- Fran and Jackie contacted the technology department and we attempted to collect info from the parents through the PTOs electronically. Unfortunately it did not work out. We had a 2nd collection and this did not work out either due to the Blackboard Collect link that was copied and pasted which did not work properly. There was no objective to derail the system and the maelstrom that ensued was not intended. All concerns were relayed.
- Dr. Gonzalez has the directories today to review and go forward with distribution to the families. They are on the presses as we speak. There were some issues with having 2 data collections. In some cases there was a yes and a no from within the same family. We had to take the no answer as the correct one and that information was not in the directory. This is where we are today.
- Dr. Gonzalez asked that if your school would like to proceed with the printing to let him know. A list was then passed around for each school response. Next year this will not happen. There will need to be a SOP to ensure consistency in all schools (pages, type, forms for release as examples). Dr. Gonzalez wanted to know the details for collection and procedure. Jackie asked that at this time to limit your questions for discussion for our next Presidents meeting on 2/12/14.

A brief question and answer period followed regarding the Directories:

1. **Question:** Do the schools/PTO's have an approved communications schedule? Is there a condensed place for all this information?
Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: This is up to the school principal and the PTO. The principal has Blackboard Connect; work together to set up a schedule. If the PTO has a regular email system set up, share this with the principal. Acassera@wayneschools.com can be contacted with additions to the E-newsletter sent from the district. You can provide a link to your PTO website for more details. The community board on the district website contains all the details and links.
2. **Question:** Will the district print extra directories and provide labels?
Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: Only families signed up and in the directory will receive a copy. Labels will follow and be distributed.

3. **Question:** Will extra pages be available in the next directory?

Answer: Jackie: We will discuss this at the next meeting.

4. **Question:** Is the original information in the directories?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: No. The copies provided today are the edited ones from the most recent data collection. Jackie: Look through your copies for any major mistakes. Please email Dr. Gonzalez with any corrections.

5. **Question:** We were asked by Joe Borchard to go through the draft of the directory but nothing was resolved. Emails were sent but never responded.

Answer: Jackie: These are the issues with data collection. Dr. Gonzalez: We could set something up with the school and Joe to go through them.

School Stores

- Sodexo was aware that they were the only vendor operating which conflicts with the School Stores. Fran and Jackie will compile a list of a set schedule so we can notify Sodexo when the School Stores will be operating. The guidelines are:
 1. Elementary School – one/two times a week (any time during the day).
 2. Middle School – One time a week (any time during the day).
 3. High School – remains unchanged. Planner sales excluded.
- Spiritwear and Bookfair sales are excluded. Once the schools submit their day(s) and time to Dr. Gonzalez, a schedule will be given to Sodexo.

Budget Development

- January is budget crunch time for the 2014/2015 school year. The process for the district includes the administration and Board of Education. A preliminary budget is created by March that does not exceed the statutory budget. Nothing is locked in at this point.
- In Jan/Feb the BOE/Finance will meet with the PTO, Booster Clubs, as many groups as they can looking for feedback, as communication is the priority. An email will be sent to parents and teachers with a link to answer questions about what they feel is important to be considered for the budget. There will be a public input session on January 16, 2014 at WHHS at 7:00pm, with a 2nd session to follow in March.
- The PARCC Assessments have had major impact to the budget to get the district up to state standards and compliancy.
- In addition to the budget there will be a Safety/Security Referendum in March. This is separate from the budget and will help subsidize the monies needed for the upgrades proposed. Our schools are secure but are in need of alignment throughout the district. If approved in March upgrades can begin in the summer.

A brief question and answer period followed regarding the Budget Development:

1. **Question:** Are the meetings in January and March the same?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: No they are not. January you will have the opportunity to have your voice heard. March will be a presentation of a preliminary budget. We can plan a PTO/BOE meeting so you may get the information out to your population.

2. **Question:** Will there be a BBC call going out to make everyone aware of these meetings.

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: Yes and it will also be included in the E-Newsletter.

3. **Question:** Will we vote on the referendum?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: Yes

4. **Question:** Do seniors attend the budget meetings?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: Yes but as the budget vote is now changed and a 2% cap was placed on budgets, we are seeing less seniors at the meetings. Jackie: This where we need to get the word out to get our population more involved in the process.

5. **Question:** Will BOE members attend PTO meetings?

Answer: Jackie: we can discuss with the BOE and we also need to push our populations to attend the meetings. We need to take the extra step and grab everyone's attention to attend the meetings to encourage participation.

Open Discussion

Question: When will we know on the outcome of the BOE's appeal to the state regarding the PARCC Assessment and compliancy?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: The filing was symbolic as in it questions the unfunded mandates set forth by the state. It challenges the state to set aside monies to assist districts.

Question: How can the state assume that schools will be ready and up to date in time for the new testing?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: We need to get the feedback and pushback on the mandates to get it done.

Question: The GWMS has stated that they are taking the pilot test for the PARCC. Will all schools take it and will we be ready? What if it doesn't work?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: The state asked that 80% of the schools in the state take it in the spring. The question types are not finalized. We have no idea what the outcome will be if it does not go smoothly.

Question: Has any state been tested yet?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: No. It was attempted in different consortiums and it failed miserably. Please remember when NJASK was introduced it had problems too, but keep in mind our children are very resilient. PARCC Assessment and the Common Core are asking our children to think differently so they can be prepared and evolve into the future.

Question: NJASK scores were used as a guide for placement in classes. What is the plan for assessment with the new system?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: That conversation is happening now with multiple sources included to implement any changes needed.

Question: How will the current 5th grade transition to middle school?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: We are meeting to discuss this and will have more details at the next meeting.

Question: When can we expect the 2014/2015 calendar?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: It was introduced at the December 2013 BOE meeting. It will be discussed at the next meeting and hopefully we will have it late Jan/early Feb.

Question: Permits are sent to Ronnie Brass. Is there any way we could know if any event may coincide with another function already in place on the same date at a particular school?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: Ronnie looks at space and scheduling, not conflict. The district has a calendar that each school can add to so all can see what events are occurring. You may contact Ronnie to see if anything else is schedule on specific day at the school.

Question: Regarding high school, is there a master itinerary, guidelines for incoming/new students?

Answer: Dr. Gonzalez: Historically we can provide dates and basic information. I can suggest identifying the issues and needs and contact your PTO to communicate the need for a system. I will discuss with the principals. Jackie: Please forward to the council what needs to be addressed and we can create a punch list of topics to be sent to Dr. Gonzalez. A great suggestion is having the MS attend HS meetings to create a smooth transfer.

Jackie thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting at 11:16am.

Attendance:

Maria Beilis	Council
Jackie Prince	Council
Stephanie Fenske	Council
Kristen DeVries	Council
Shannon Wolfelsperger	Ryerson
Tiffany Roth	Fallon
Debbie Jozak	Lafayette
Diane Grdodian	Lafayette
Jen Crawford	Theunis Dey
Vicky Struyk	GWashington
Susan Kresge	SColfax
Stacey Nisenson	JFK
Lisa Minervini	WSPA
Mariangela Mejia	WSPA
Denise Lynch	WValley
Rosemary Colazzo	WValley
Therese Potter	Packanack
Randi London	Pines Lake
Ellen Fitzsimmon	Pines Lake
Stephanie Conklin	Pines Lake
Lisa Silva	APTernhune
Victoria Lefelar	RCarter
Deb Cahiff	RCarter
Alexis McNamara	RCarter
Joyce Morandi	WHills
Linda Marchesini	AWayne
Janine DeVecchio	WHills
Cecilia Feeley	WSPA

