

Superintendent's Meeting 3/13/13

Meeting began at 9:35 am.

Everyone welcomed by Karen and Janine.

Dr. Gonzalez began the meeting by answering an email question about School Fusion.

School Fusion is not currently mandated, and there is uneven use of the program by teachers in the district. The district has the systems in place for on-line grade books and school fusion. Grading and homework expectations need to be made clearer to teachers by the district. The technical capacity is available, and training for the teachers will be made available through staff meetings and professional development. The Parent Portal will continue to be upgraded. Marysol Berrios commented that it will become an incentive for the teachers to use school fusion to prove their effectiveness during evaluations. Principals will need to communicate better as well (more to follow from Marysol). Dr. Gonzalez continued about the new teacher evaluations and the new Common Core Standards, as well as the new PARC test will be done on line. The district has until 2014 to catch up with the technology, which includes typing for the PARC test. This needs to be addressed across the board at all schools. The State mandates a minimum of 1 computer for every 2 students at your largest grade. Computers will need to be portable throughout each individual school and the district. This will hopefully be implemented in the next 3-5 years. We need to be cautious not to over-emphasize technology, as students must know the basics.

The second email question answered by Dr. Gonzalez was: Can PTO Presidents request specific teachers to chaperone an event? The teachers must be board approved. The selection must be recommended by the principal.

Dr. Gonzalez gave a 2013-2014 budget update. A budget input session will be held on March 14th at WVHS at 7:00 pm. To achieve what we currently did for the 2012-2013 school year, preliminary budget would be \$141 million. \$139 million is the maximum allowed with a 2% tax levy costing the average household \$205/year. There is a healthcare waiver of \$2.4 million. They are currently looking at what can be reduced and looking to revise the healthcare waiver to \$1.2 million. This would lower the cost to taxpayers to \$178/average household. A zero % increase=\$2 million cut from \$139 million. A zero \$ increase=\$6.8 million cut from \$139 million.

Marysol spoke about the new teacher evaluation process. District Evaluation Advisory Committee, made up of 15-20 people, met to review all possible models available and which would be best for Wayne Township. All models were based on a foundation that Good Teaching=Good Teaching. All teachers need to demonstrate good classroom lessons. The "Stronge Model " was adopted. There was 3 training sessions for all administrators that will teach them how to use the tool to evaluate their teachers. At the final session on 3/12/13, they were given a test.

The Stronge Model has 7 standards:

1. Professional Knowledge (with performance indicators).
2. Instructional Planning (does the teacher plan well enough for the needs of all of their students).
3. Instructional Delivery (this is looked at during teacher observations).
4. Assessment of/for learning)“of learning” -a test, which is considered a snap shot in time; “for learning”-use of multiple response strategies while teaching to see if the students understand what is being taught).
5. Classroom Environment (do the teachers set up a room conducive for learning).
6. Professionalism (dress code, vested in own learning, communicating with parents, asking for professional development days).
7. Student Progress (based on standardized testing, SGP’s-Student Growth Objectives, and non-tested grades). Tested grades will be based on 1 SGP (Student Growth Percentiles) and 1 SGO (Student Growth Objectives). Non-tested grades will be based on SGO’s.

Items 1-6 are 50% of the teacher evaluation. Item #7 is 50% of the evaluation.

Teachers will be evaluated as follows:

Non-Tenured: 3 observations (which includes 1 unannounced) and 1 evaluation. 1st and 2nd year teachers will have 1 short (20 minutes) and 2 long observations. 3rd and 4th year teachers will have 2 short and 1 long. They will also have 1 evaluation.

Tenured: 3 short observations (1 will be unannounced) and 1 evaluation.

Ratings: Highly Effective, Effective, Partially Effective, and Ineffective. After 2 years of poor evaluations a tenured teacher can be removed.

Principals will have 7 Standards as well that are similar to the teachers standards.

Evaluations can be done by principals and administrators, either from within the district or from other districts using the Stronge Model to ensure fair evaluations.

Karen and Janine reminded all PTO Presidents that Nominating Committees should be formed and information is confidential to the committee.

PTO Council is looking for 2 Vice Presidents.

Fran Cooke asked everyone to visit Ryerson on 3/15/13 for their TREPPS Program, which was also being held at JFK.

Meeting ended at 11:20 am

Sign In Sheet

Denise Lynch	GW & RC
Michelle Iannelli	Theunis
Deb Califf	RC
Frances Galli	Lafayette
Shannon Wolfelsperger	Ryerson
Caroline Mastres	Council
Joyce Morandi	WHHS
Therese Potter	Packanack
Linda Marchesini	AW
Karen Stack	GW
Lisa MInervini	SPA
Carolyn Radler	Fallon
Stephanie Conklin	Pines Lake
Ellen Fitzsimmons	Pines Lake
Fran Cooke	Council
Karen Marron	Council
Janine Del Vecchio	Council
Maria Beilis	Council
Marysol Berrios	CO