

ICCS District Wide Parents' Organization
October 12th, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Borlaug Elementary School

Attendees: Celeste Shoppa, Maka Pilcher-Hayek, Ben Brozene, Kerri Goers, Jenni Mettemeyer, Shawn Eyestone, Brad Kelly, Marisa Keeney, Mary Murphy, Wendy Stevenson, Angela Pitkin, Nick Herbold, Jeff Cosier, Tara Sterba, Paul Roesler, Chris Lynch, Teresa Weeks, Phil Hemingway, Matt Degner, Amy Kortemeyer, Steve Murley, Eric Johnson, Carol Joriman, Craig Hansel,

Representing:

- I. Gathering at Borlaug Elementary School began at 11:30. The Borlaug PTO provided lunch.
- II. Call to Order
 - A. Co-President Maka Pilcher Hayek called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.
 - B. Borlaug Principal Celeste Shoppa welcomed the DPO and gave an introduction to Borlaug Elementary School which included the history of its namesake, Mr. Borlaug.
- III. Open Discussion: No items were presented for discussion.
- IV. DPO Officers Reports
 - A. President: Maka reminded participants of the existence of the DPO facebook page. The page is entitled: Iowa City Community Schools Districtwide Parents' Organization. The page can be accessed by all. You must join in order to post to the site.
 - B. Secretary: A reminder that we are still collecting DPO representative contact information for each school. The secretaries will need the the name, address, phone number and email of each school's PTO's President, Treasurer, DPO Representative and DPO Representative Alternate. This can be emailed to dpoiccsd@gmail.com
 - C. Treasurer: DPO Membership Dues of \$40.00 are needed from each school. Checks payable to the DPO and payment submitted to: Marisa Keeney, DPO Treasurer, 320 Fox Run, North Liberty, IA 52317. Please submit payment by November 1st, 2016. Thank you.
 - D. President Elect: No updates
 - E. Past President: No updates
- V. Iowa City Community School District Report
 - A. Foundation Representative:

1. Thank you for your participation in Dine Out for the Schools. The fundraising effort has brought in \$8,000 so far.
 2. The visiting author this year is local author Delia Ray. She will speak to all 5th and 6th grade students.
 3. The 8th grade students will attend Live Arts at Hancher and watch a performance of Step Afrika
 4. Run for the Schools is October 16th.
- B. School Board Representative: Chris Lynch spoke on behalf of the School board.
1. He reports a good start to the 2016-2017 school year and a smoother transition in the first few weeks adjusting to the dynamic student population. Daily and weekly reviews were made and by Labor Day most adjustments had been made. He attributed this to a strong process in place and a strong financial situation allowing for hiring of additional teachers as needed. The introduction of a new bell schedule and busing schedule was reported to have been smooth.
 2. The ACT median score was reported to be 25.2 for Iowa City which remains above average for the state. There were 601 students who took the ACT which is a 5% increase from last year and the ICCSD remains a high scoring school district.
 3. The School Board reports a healthy financial review which is in part to difficult decisions made in the previous years which included moving money into the General Fund in 2015 and reducing busing costs in 2016.
 4. Please support pro-education candidates in your voting this year. Education within the state remains approximately \$21,000,000 underfunded when compared to national standards. Increases of 2% to education do not allow for sustainability with wage increases of 3-4%. Pro-education advocates are requesting no unfunded mandates be passed.
 5. Operational: GO bond details are posted under work session on the school board website. This will result in \$194 million. The ICCSD is currently the 25th lowest in the state for tax-rates. However, funding efforts underway could mean tax neutral for the Building Master Plan.
 6. Facility Master Plan: There will be a request for public input before winter break both in online format and face-to-face.

Reports are generated every two years which allow for minor revisions.

7. Boundaries: Official maps are available online as of October 12th. Voluntary transfer is also open for applications. The deadline for secondary applications is December 1st and March 1st for Elementary transfer requests for open enrollment.
8. Transportation: Pay to ride was established. There were 415 applicants and 413 were granted. Bus routes were adjusted to incorporate these students when applications were received on time. There is a committee meeting to discuss “activity buses” to address barriers to participation in extracurricular activities. Of note, where additional busing was added, attendance to school has been noted to have increased.

C. Superintendent: No additional updates

VI. Presentation: Weighted Resource Allocation Model (WRAM) was presented by Chris Lynch, ICCSD School Board Director. Also in attendance was Stephen Murley, Superintendent of ICCSD, Amy Kortemeyer, Matt Degner, Assistant Superintendents of ICCSD.

A. There are three primary goals for the district:

1. Improve proficiency in reading
2. Improve proficiency in math
3. Improve educational opportunities

B. Efforts to address proficiency have focused on closing achievement gaps for every subgroup as identified/measured under the Elementary and Secondary Act. The focus has been on increasing opportunities. Data for the district indicates that 45% of children on Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) were not found to be proficient in reading as compared to 10% of students not participating in FRL. Distribution of proficiency based on race found 53% of Black population, 38% of Hispanic population were not proficient in reading compared to 2% Asian and 13% White populations. Data has reported to be unchanging over several years. In order to address achievement gaps the current recommendation is to provide pupil to teacher ratios that are educationally appropriate and fiscally sustainable and include considerations of ELL, special education, and socio-economic status. The current general education goals for class size for schools with low barriers to learning are 26 students (grades K-2), 30 (3rd-6th grade), 32 (7th-8th grade) and 34 (9th-12th

grade). For schools with average barriers to education the class sizes will be 24 (K-2), 28 (3-6th grade), 30 (7-8th grade), and 32 (9-12th grade). For schools who have been identified as having high barriers to education class sizes will be 20 (K-2), 24 (3-6), 26 (7-8), and 28 (9-12). Of note despite adjustments in class size the goal is not to reduced resources if barriers remain.

- C. This policy was implemented this year. Additional Elementary teachers were hired to serve in High Barriers to Learning schools. No teachers were removed from Low Barriers to Learning Schools in order to achieve the WRAM. The district was not able to meet all of their objectives in each of the schools due to limitations in space. Full implementation will need to be staged due to limitations in classroom availability.
- D. What does this look like in the schools? There were hiring of several part time teachers in the 3rd-6th grades classes so that there were smaller sections for literature and math classes. Science and Social Studies classes will be noted to remain larger. Support staff is not considered in the WRAM. Some of the smaller schools have had difficulty meeting staffing needs. Currently the district is able to fill 90% of requests with substitutes. However, it has been harder to find replacements for support staff.
- E. WRAM is considered a short term approach (10 years duration approximately). Longer term approaches would address boundary changes, diversification of neighborhoods and urban planning to support the goal of all schools becoming average for Barriers to Learning.
- F. Extended Learning Program (ELP) is also being adjusted this year. The ELP program in the K-2nd grade will focus on Reading, Math and Spatial Reasoning by trimester. In the lower elementary schools students are being screened for the program each trimester and will qualify to participate each trimester based on their ability per subject. Therefore children may participate in only one trimester or could participate in more based on ability.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2016

Coralville Central Elementary
501 6th St, Coralville, IA 52241

