

DISTRICTWIDE PARENT' ORGANIZATION
IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
http://www.edline.net/pages/ICCSD/parents/District_Parents_Organization

Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2017 at Shimek Elementary School

Attendees Included: Brad Kelly, Kerri Goers, Laura Broffitt, Jen Kruse, Lori Roetlin, Angela Pitkin, Anna Flaming, Jen Rushton, Marla Swesey, Sarah Hachtman, Jamie Walpole, Cyndi Crossett-Powell, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Marisa Keeney, Michael Tilly, Mary Murphy, Megan Brown, Kelly Terrill, Ellen Sweet, Amy Kortemeyer, Jessie Viering, Tara Sterba, Shwetal Vyas, Denise Zumbach, Jacki Marquardt, Theresa Ho, Jenni Mettemeyer, Liz Firmstone, Denise Seabold, Phil Hemingway, Elizabeth Bruening

Representing: Longfellow, Weber, Horn, ICCSD Board of Directors, Alexander, CAPSTO, ICHSAP, Coralville Central, NCJH, Lucas, Wickham, Penn, ESC, Garner, Hills, West High, Wickham, Liberty, Van Allen, Lincoln, SEJH, Shimek, Lemme, Wickham

- I. Gathering Time: Attendees gathered starting at 11:30 a.m. at Shimek Elementary.

- II. Call to Order:
 - A. Principal Elizabeth Bruening welcomed attendees to Shimek Elementary School.
 - B. Tara Sterba, DPO Co-President, welcomed everyone.
 - C. Brad Kelly moved to approve the DPO minutes from the September 13, 2017, meeting. The minutes were approved by those present.
 - D. Two Shimek students shared book talks--*Triple Trouble* and *Stormbreaker*.
 - E. Principal Bruening shared the Shimek goals for 2017-2018, including to *Increase math and proficiency by working in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and following the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process. Maintain minimal or no suspensions through Positive Behavior Supports (PBIS). Increase students' feelings of respect and inclusion at school through various programs targeting diversity and inclusivity. Grow a positive school culture within and among students and staff by promoting fun, encouraging celebrations, and recognizing effort.* Principal Bruening also shared that Shimek serves Preschool through 6th grade students has 243 students, and is 88% white, 7% Black/African American, 3% Asian, 1% Hispanic, 1 Native American, has no ELL program, and 6% of students have an IEP or 504. There are 10 classroom teachers and 1 special ed teacher. Its staff includes a part-time guidance counselor, etc.

- F. Tara mentioned that index cards were available on tables to participants to use to ask questions for the administration and that ICCSD's Lisa Glenn would be presenting about special education at the November meeting.
- G. Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Co-President Elect, asked for a show of hands to show who might be attending the November meeting, which will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Northwest Junior High.

III. Announcements:

- A. Sarah Hachtman of Alexander mentioned that Alexander Elementary would be holding a fall carnival this Saturday [September 16th with a silent auction and games.]
- B. Jamie from Iowa City Home School Assistance Program (ICHSAP) introduced the Iowa City HSAP PTO as a new group.
- C. Miriam Timmer-Hackert expressed that those with interest in a multi-ethnic group see her.
- D. Miriam Timmer-Hackert also introduced a Coralville Central (CC) fundraising T-Shirt with "Be Kind" written in languages spoken by CC students as a potential fundraiser others schools could use. If interested, see her.
- E. Marla Swesey, Transitions PTO representative, said Transitions would be hosting a potluck next Monday [September 18] to get people involved. Transitions is for 18-21 year old students with disabilities and is located at Eastdale Mall where the ICCSD has purchased space for the program.
- F. Jamie Walpole of the Iowa City Homeschoolers Assistance Program (ICHSAP) at TREC said the program was working on a fundraiser for hurricane victims in Dominca.

IV. DPO Officer Reports

- A. Tara Sterba reminded the group that the DPO was still collecting questions for Lisa Glenn for the special education meeting and that questions could be posted on Facebook.
- B. Jenni Mettemeyer, DPO Co-Secretary, asked that PTO, PSTO, and PTA representatives provide her with email information if they are not on the DPO list.
- C. Cynthia Crossett-Powell reminded representatives of the following schools that their organizations still need to pay dues: Alexander, City High, Mann, Tate, and Lemme.

V. Foundation Representative Susan Brennan

- A. Reported that she is looking for businesses to sponsor Run for the Schools [October 15] and people to volunteer and/or run.
- B. Last Tuesday, fourth graders listened to an orchestra at the Voxman Building, which event the Foundation worked on in partnership with Any Given Child.
- C. Reported that Kindertales started October 2 and will run through November 8th in partnership with the Children's Museum and Any Given Child.
- D. Thanked the PTOs and PSTOs for helping with School of the Wild by sending in money.

VI. Iowa City Community School District Reports

- A. Lori Roetlin, ICCSD Board Member, reported that the board has four new members.
- B. Board Member Roetlin also said that the 1st regular board meeting with the new board members went well, they discussed legal counsel, activity bussing, and discretionary bussing. She encouraged everyone to watch the section of the meeting about activity bussing [--television rerun or video at ICCSD Board Docs and/or Youtube--for the video, start to watch at time 24:10 at the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yevd1j4OWh8&feature=youtu.be> and for the ICCSD board agenda item with attachments see https://www.ups.com/uel/llp/1Z3AE0289094948722?loc=en_US&pdr=false&filter=printLabelAll&key=LSjYX9yw4xgS4aReyJK8QvzO7hLaw4MyItklN94vwQwe&id=XSA]
- C. Board Member Roetlin also stated that a new design plan was revealed for elementary school on South Slope. School representative Denise Zumbach said that she had attended a school with ramps [shown in the design for the new elementary] and reported on the hazards of ramps. She said students put marbles and cooking oil down them and flooded drinking fountains to make them wet. She further stated that the ramps were a “blast” for students but that the problems with them were never solved because they became a “slip and slide” and that balls and ramps became a science project.
- D. ICCSD employee Amy Kortemeyer reported a successful transition of Longfellow students to the new Hoover building. There were two committees for the transition--a small group, which then took its work to a large group. Longfellow, Lincoln, and Mann principals attended the resulting meeting working on issues like busing, etc.
- E. Amy Kortemeyer also reported that Lincoln and Mann renovation plans were now before the board and are in design & development. The next step is board approval with a final approval of the plans slated for next January.

- F. In response to the above, Tea Ho, Past Co-President, asked “how can parents become involved in the transition?” Amy Kortemeyer said one parent from each school is on the large group and that ICCSD could add more.
 - G. Amy Kortemeyer mentioned that FAST assessments were previously stored on the Iowa Tier, a data system, and ICCSD was now transitioning to the FAST Bridge system. FAST is a fluency screener ICCSD uses for grades 2 through 6. It does not show proficiency in reading and does not measure comprehension. The district took DRA away from the kiddos. The district will get a new reading assessment that is adaptive and will measure multiple things. The district now has a math assessment on the computer. A parent asked how the children will take the assessments and Amy Kortemeyer replied that the class will go into the computer lab to take the tests.
 - H. In response to a concern raised by Ben Brozene, a Shimek parent, about bullying, Amy Kortemeyer, will follow up with ICCSD’s Kingsley Botchway.
- VII. Presentation by Iowa City Community School District Board Members Lori Roetlin and Phil Hemingway
- A. DPO’s Tara Sterba asked *What is the primary responsibility of a school board member?* Phil replied there are many responsibilities including to audit and approve spending and that school board members are a source for stakeholders to ask questions and that board members represent all of the district. Lori Roetlin said school board members help shape the education of the community’s young people and that board member’s responsibilities include keeping up with new information; doing research; and spending time talking to people, teachers, and principals. She further added that the Iowa Association of School Board (IASB) puts on a training for new board members to help with the vast amount of information it is important for new board members to know. Another responsibility is to hire/fire, and hold the superintendent, the board’s only employee, accountable. When asked about board policy, Lori Roetlin replied that writing policy is a very small piece of being a school board member.
 - B. A question was asked about what the limitations on a school board member are? Lori stated a school board member has no direct authority over employee’s performance, that there are state law limitations about how much money can be spent, that there are silos of money and that the money in the silos can only be spent in certain ways and gave the TLC [teacher leadership and compensation) money as an example. The bond money can only be spent for facilities and can’t be used for staffing. Lori stated that a board member is only one of seven people. Phil Hemingway added that the board must comply with the open meetings law and that the board can only act when a quorum agree.

- C. DPO's Tara Sterba asked "How do you represent your own school community while balancing needs of other schools in the district?" Phil Hemingway stated that while his daughter graduated from City High, he considers that he represents all schools in the district. Lori Roetlin stated that she was familiar with West; however, she recognizes that all schools have different needs, that square footage of schools may not need to be exactly the same, that Coralville Central has small art/music rooms and that will probably not change, and that other schools will get bigger art/music rooms. Lori Roetlin wants the focus on bigger less and celebrate what other schools are getting.
- D. DPO's Tara Sterba asked about the best way to contact you. Lori Roetlin said email is good and that she tries to provide an authentic response [school board contact information is at this link: <https://www.iowacityschools.org/Domain/2263>. She doesn't respond to every email but does read every email. Phil reads every email he receives and provided the following phone numbers 319/341-6098, 319/430-9373 (cell), 319/466-9490 (home), and stated that on Fridays at noon, he does have a community listening post at his shop where anyone is welcome to drop in, potluck style.
- E. DPO's Tara Sterba asked Lori Roetlin and Phil Hemingway what they enjoyed about their role and what they struggled with.
1. Lori said she didn't run for joy and struggles with the imbalance of wanting to serve all students. She further said not all parents are able to speak and must balance that fact against feedback from people of means. She said she sometimes misses time with her own family due to school board meetings. She said it is hard to get movement on the achievement gap and that there is no easy solution and that they can't close the achievement gap fast enough. She addressed the climate study showing students have concerns--it's hard to fix but she wants all students to feel welcome. She mentioned limited time and resources and thought visioning might help.
 2. Phil said he attended board meetings for six years before becoming a board member and that he has a supportive wife. He struggles with two board members not finishing out their term. Tom Yates had lots of experience and the board lost a lot of knowledge. It's also hard to balance the school board commitments with family time such as his 25th wedding anniversary. He played football and supports sports yet is frustrated with sports getting lots of support and funding yet it is not a class--e.g., one school getting a college level weight room, which then other principals want. He wants kids in sports and enthused; however, the kids can be without hugely expensive facilities at a time when we don't yet have welding and fourth grade orchestra was cut. He thinks we should give kids

opportunities for Ag Science and Agribusinesses. He wants opportunities for kids who don't go to college to have successful lives and look at how we define success.

3. Lori likes hearing from students representatives, principals, and staff directly. Lori also likes trying new endeavors, e.g. AVID program, and the excitement of teachers when students gain accomplishments. She enjoys the Tate and Transitions and all graduations and stories of students overcoming challenges. She likes watching principals connect with students, that our principals are smart and cool people, and that she is proud of principals, teachers and staff.
- F. DPO's Tara Sterba said *Tell us about Carver governance*, a corporate school governance model the ICCSD board uses.
1. Phil said he knew Roy Caver, and Roy Carver would not have tolerated the Carver governance method. Underneath the Carver governance model used by the ICCSD board, the board can only hire and fire the superintendent, that decisions are made by ICCSD's administration before they come to the board and that the board approves the decisions--Phil is not a fan.
 2. Miriam Timmer-Hackert asked *can't you tell [superintendent] Murley what to do?* Phil, *yes, but he may or may not do it.* Marla Swesey [former ICCSD board member and current Transitions representative] interjected that you can change the policy, that she is not a fan of Carver policy governance; however, she knew how to get policies changed. Lori said it's *not simple* and that the board must act as a board, and that the board email address is board@iowacityschools.org.
 3. Eric Johnson asked about the importance of board retreats. Phil said he had missed one retreat; however, he makes most meetings. Phil stated he is very optimistic about the new board and it was very frustrating in the past when agenda items requests were not honored or were removed. Phil added that if people have questions, he will bring them up.

VIII. Adjournment - DPO Co-President Tara Sterba adjourned the meeting and reminded everyone that about the next DPO meeting in November.

Respectfully submitted,

By Jenni Mettemeyer and Mary Murphy, DPO Co-Secretaries

Co-Presidents: Tara Sterba*Brad Kelly

Co-Presidents Elect: Miriam Timmer-Hackert*Eric Johnson

Past Co-Presidents: Mary Kate Pilcher-Hayek*Tea Ho

Co-Secretaries: Jenni Mettemeyer*Mary Murphy

Treasurer: Cynthia Crossett-Powell

Next Meeting on November 8th at Northwest Junior High, 1507 8th Street, Coralville, Iowa

- Approve Minutes from 10-11-2017 meeting