

ICCS Districtwide Parents' Organization  
May 10, 2017 Southeast Junior High School

Attendees: Laura Broffitt, Jen Krause, Shawn Eyestone, Ben Brozene, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Brooke Engler, Paul Roesler, Julie Thomas, Stacey Hockett Sherlock, Charity Nebbe, Phil Hemingway, MK Plicher Hayek, Debbie Yarrow, Cynthia Crossett Powell, Marise Keeney, Tara Sterba, Theresa Ho, Matt Degner, Laura Westemeyer, Denise Seabold, Amy Kortemeyer, Valerie Hoffman, Ellen Sweet, Brad Kelly, Sarah Hachtman, Jenni Mettemeyer, Brian Kirschling, Jill Braun, Eric Johnson

Representing: Horn, Garner, Shimek, Coralville Central, Grant Wood, ICCSD Schoolboard, Hoover, Weber, Any Given Child Program, NCJH, Hills, Twain, ESC, West, Wickham, ESC, Longfellow, Alexander, Lincoln

- I. Gathering at Southeast began at 11:30. Lunch was provided by the Twain PTO.
- II. Call to order
  - A. DPO Co-President Mary Kate Pilcher-Hayek formally welcomed those present.
  - B. Principal Jeremy Negus welcomed the group. Loves this school, first year here, created a shared belief/vision statement with staff
  - C. Focus on student growth, recognizing obstacles to learning, celebrates growth and diversity.
  - D. Very grateful for the WRM model implemented at Twain, it has lowered the class sizes, added more full-time staff including a SFA.
  - E. Twain will receive a whole new tech makeover. 100% of 5<sup>th</sup>&6<sup>th</sup> graders will receive Chromebooks, younger students will be at a 2 to 1 ratio. All classroom tech suites will receive upgrades including new Smartboards and microphones.
- III. Open Discussion
  - A. Debbie Yarrow gave an update on the Any Given Child Program.
    1. Harry Hardness – artist in residence
    2. Staff Art Ambassadors at every school
    3. Looking for funding for Disco Intervention, need around \$3700
- IV. DPO Officers Reports
  - A. President
    1. Many Thanks to Shawn & Ben for organizing the DPO Scholarship Reception and their service to the DPO. Many Thanks to Marisa Keeney for serving as Treasurer.

B. President Elect

1. Election on 2017-2018 DPO Board. Past Presidents – Tea Ho & Maka Pilcher Hayek, Presidents – Tara Sterba & Brad Kelly, President Elect – Miriam Timmer-Hackert & Eric Johnson, Co-Secretaries – Jenni Mettemeyer & Jeff Cosier, Treasurer – Cynthia Crossett-Powell. Slate was approved by a majority vote.

C. Secretary

1. April meeting minutes were circulated for review and approval.

D. Treasurer

1. DPO account balance is \$1,256.91.

E. Past President

1. Shawn – Thanks to everyone who helped with the scholarship reception

V. Iowa City Community School District Reports

A. Foundation –Susan Brennen

1. Thank you for a successful Dine Out for Education, still waiting for numbers from 10 restaurants but at \$8600 already.
2. Give & Grow program at UICCU raised \$21,000. Thanks to UICCU and all who contributed.
3. Foundation will now be covering the cost of School of the Wild. Received \$40,000 from UICCU, hoping PTO's will help fund the rest. Bills from UI will come directly to the Foundation, not to the schools anymore. Schools are urged to donate amount it contributed in the past to the Foundation to help cover the cost.

B. School Board Representative – Roesler & Hemingway

1. Last meeting was short, reviewed quarterly financial report.
2. Ed Committee meet at Kirkwood.
3. Shimek Playground will be discussed at upcoming work session. Will address issues with bidding, issues with the process, lack of inclusiveness, safety issues with proposed location, ADA compliance concerns. This is a 20-year commitment, there is a need to get this right.
4. Good meeting with Mann community, reviewing feedback & working with the city to determine the best plan.
5. City High – water issues causing walls to crumble in the gym, working on repair plan, no danger.
6. Question asked about capacity numbers – parent does not believe the addition of art and music will create enough space to remove the need for temporary classrooms, has asked Duane and board, trying to get answers. Matt Degner -Duane changed the model, makes it confusing. FMP is a moving document, changes can occur.

Parent states the “It’s Complicated” answer is not good enough. Tea Ho – people with questions should reach out directly to board members with their unanswered questions. MK Pilcher-Hayek – board members can walk you through the FMP, answer questions.

7. Parent asked about new developments that have not been accounted for in the enrollment projections. Will the FMP be changed or updated?

Degner – FMP can be changed if it stays within the language of the bond.

C. Superintendent Report – Matt Degner & Amy Kortemeyer

1. Liberty High teaching staff is complete, filling in admin, support & coaching positions.

2. New Hoover will open in the fall. Longfellow will use next year.

V. Presentation: Extraordinary Extracurriculars

1. Girls on The Run/Let Me Run – Charity Nebbe, Weber

Charity has coached the Weber team for 4 years. Program is not just about running. There is a 10-week curriculum that focuses on positive body image and self-esteem. Cost is \$150 and scholarships exist so all girls can attend. Over 30 girls participate at Weber. Teams work best when there is a teacher invested in the program, college students also support the program. Program ends with girls running a 5K.

Let Me Run is a program for boys. Programming is focused on breaking stereotypes and promotes raising men to acknowledge feelings & to contribute, also teaches about health and builds confidence. 7-week program.

2. Future Problem Solvers – Stacey Hockett-Sherlock, Hoover

Stacey leads the FPS club at Hoover for students in grades 4-6. FPS encourages students how to think, not what to think by utilizing a six-step problem solving process. This encourages students to become more creative in their thinking, collaborative teamwork skills, and increases written and verbal skills. The Hoover teams meet weekly. This year the team attended the regional bowl and qualified for state bowl. They then qualified for the International Competition at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. Congratulations to Stacey and the Hoover FPS Team! For more information see: [www.fpspi.org](http://www.fpspi.org) or email Stacey with questions, [ICHooverFPS@gmail.com](mailto:ICHooverFPS@gmail.com)

3. Language Program – Valerie Hoffman, Penn

Valerie made a survey, received feedback and tested a session with 2 classes of 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Used an online signup sheet and had so many there was a need to use a lottery system. The university language program sent students to teach 8

classes. ASL was added. There are 3 sessions of 8 classes at a cost of \$40. PTO has included scholarship money in the budget. There was a need to hire a coordinator, so cost was raised to \$60 a session, equals \$3 per kid to the coordinator. Biggest struggle has been a lack of curriculum available to the teachers for this type of program.

4. Afterschool Specials – Matt Larson, Shimek BASP Director

Goal is to provide choice based activities at no extra cost to the students who attend BASP. Band was formed as an act for the school talent show. Shared that he was a student who was interested in music, but traditional school band and choir were not the right venue for him to learn. Goal is to learn about music and jam, but not in a high-pressure environment. Program is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, there are 30 kids in two bands, with 40 expected to participate next year. There are two bands, one for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders, one for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Students can pick their instrument and are encouraged to try more than one. Band practices once a week, they carry 3 songs over from the year before and learn three new songs. Once they have a set ready, they set up gigs. They have performed at Art's Fest, the District Booster Club Pancake Breakfast, and the Shimek Stars on Stage and End of Year Picnic. Program is possible because Matt and his partner Claire are musicians and can teach the students. Equipment is mainly donated which helped them avoid this large, upfront investment that is required for the program. Believes success of program like this is ensured by having a very invested individual or team leading the program. Space to store gear is also a challenge, along with the cost of the gear, it can be expensive obtaining instruments and gear for a large group.

Jenni Mettemeyer, DPO Co-Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Co-Presidents: Tea Ho and Mary-Kate Pilcher-Hayek  
Co-Presidents Elect - Tara Sterba and Brad Kelly  
Past Co-Presidents - Ben Brozene and Shawn Eyestone  
Co-Secretaries: Kerri Goers and Jenni Mettemeyer  
Treasurer: Marisa Keeney