

ICCS Districtwide Parents' Organization
April 12, 2017 Southeast Junior High School

Attendees: Jen Krause, Laura Broffitt, Denise Seabold, Lea Nori, Sarah Hachtman, Cathy Pugh, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Carol Joriman, Jenni, Mettemeyer, Tea Ho, Julie Eisele, Valerie Blau, Ellen Sweet, Brad Kelly, Marisa Keeney, Tara Sterba, Marla Swesey, Tara Martin, Shawn Eyestone, Angela Pitkin, Jim Meehan, Ben Brozene, Brianna Wills, Laura Westemeyer, Jill Braun, Julie Thomas, Daniel Wasta, Kathi Anderson, Mary Kate Pilcher-Hayek, Susan Brennen, Steve Murley, Matt Degner, Amy Kortemeyer, Craig Hansel, Duane VanHemert, Kingsley Botchway, Chris Lynch, Brian Kirschling, Paul Roesler, Phil Hemingway, Eric Johnson

- I. Gathering at Southeast began at 11:30. Lunch was provided by the SEJH PTO. Music was provided by a student string quartet.
- II. Call to order
 - A. DPO Co-President Mary Kate Pilcher-Hayek formally welcomed those present.
- III. Principal Michelle Cook welcomed the group
 - A. 835 students attend SEJH, awesome kids, awesome place
 - B. Fall 2017 school will implement CASL – a Cross-curricular Approach to Student-driven Learning. Program will block Social Studies, Language Arts and Science into learning communities. Focus on projected based, one on one and blended learning. Students must apply for program.
 - C. The '10-plex' is scheduled to arrive at SEJH next fall. Staff determining how to best use space, excited to have options.
 - D. Offered thanks to New Pioneer, Lucky's, Hills Bank and Hy-Vee for their contributions to the SEJH PTO.
- IV. Co-president MKP Hayek welcomed the attendees to participate in the Open Discussion portion of the meeting. Encouraged everyone to be respectful and remember that everyone is participating because they care about the kids.
 - A. Alexander Rep – Shared that 6th grade students worked with West High students to build Free Little Libraries, has been a great project.
 - B. Twain Rep – Shared that the Twain Carnival was scheduled for the upcoming weekend, thanks to Mary Morrison & SE volunteers for hosting.
 - C. Lucas Rep – School is excited about the continuing improvements to the building.
 - D. Shimek parent – Why is the district only requiring minimum ADA requirements on playgrounds if they don't allow for all students to participate?
 1. Question referred to Duane VanHemert, Physical Plant Director. Current playground meets minimum standards and has a few extra ADA components than required. They must design the playground for 240 students to use, not just one.

2. West High parent – District should be designing playground for all 241 students to play together, no one should be left out.

V. DPO Officers Reports

A. Past President Report

1. Shawn – DPO Scholarship Reception is 2 weeks from tomorrow. Still need bios from Penn, Alex, CC. Need names and bios from Horn, SE, Wood, Alex, CC, Twain. See the Sign-up Genius if you would like to volunteer.

B. Secretary

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

C. Treasurer

1. DPO account balance is \$1,915.23. Dues needed from Wood.

D. Past President

1. Ben – DPO board has chosen three scholarship recipients. Great students, was hard to decide. Anna Norman-Wikner, City High and Andrea Childs and Jennifer Kuehn, West High

E. Foundation –Susan Brennen

1. Thank you for a successful Dine Out for Education & for sharing the event on social media.
2. Give & Grow program at UICCU is underway, will match all donations dollar for dollar.
3. Foundation will now be covering the cost of School of the Wild. 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.

F. School Board Representative – Lynch

1. 4 board members present so there can be no deliberation, determined Phil will not speak but observe the discussion.
2. Bond Language updated with more specific language, will be presented for vote again next month.
3. Legislative Update – state will drop 3rd grade retention & summer school mandate.
4. Updated policy & Special Ed. survey, will leverage PTOs
5. New Special Ed. Director starting in July, will create a strong plan.
6. Approved Longfellow renovation project.

G. District Report – Steve Murley

1. Iowa graduation & drop out data released. Iowa #1 in country, we exceed state levels. 4 & 5 year drop outs went up across the state, ours went down.

VI. Presentation: General Obligation Bond Part Deux: Answers to DPO Questions
MC Shawn Eyestone, DPO Co-Past President

1. Q: New capacity numbers – Where did the new template come from? How do they compare to current enrollment numbers?

A: Duane VanHemert – Templates are tools to help design better buildings & upgrade buildings. Template created in Des Moines by Iowa educators & architects and he has worked on & with it for last 17 years and brought it to the district with him. Designed for a +/- 10% range in consideration of operational efficiency. Capacity changed because we reevaluated the buildings using these templates, no longer using BLDD capacity recommendations. This template shows us we should be good if we follow the plan.

Steve Murley – Capacity can change depending on changes in policy, use, and enrollment. WRM policy has changed the capacity of Alexander, for example.

2. Q: Operational efficiency vs capacity – The total future capacity is quite a bit higher than the projected enrollment. If we make the proposed changes, the operational efficiency at some schools is compromised. Is there a targeted number of overage?

A: Duane – Do not have a defined target

Chris Lynch – FMP is outstanding at raising operational efficiency, physical/electrical/etc. upgrades drive savings.

Steve – FMP is organic & changing, want capacity to absorb growth during & after FMP, gets looked at every few years & updated.

Chris – Greater operational efficiency saves smaller schools, without FMP they are at a greater risk of closing, this is where future savings are coming from. We should not reexamine plan.

3. Q: Is every school getting music and art spaces that are commensurate to their school populations?

A Steve – If upgrading school, art and music will be added. If not, attempting to improve space & turning old art & music into regular classrooms. Doing as much as we can.

Brian Kirschling – Community has a great appreciation of art & music, going through the process has helped us realized what we were missing, Twain an example – natural lighting in an art room greatly improves experience.

Horn rep – Horn plan has changed, not getting art & music additions, current music room is not sufficient.

Steve – Steve & Duane will follow-up. District has a Q&A page on website, can post answers there.

4. Q: Need for preschool space – why are we prioritizing art and music over preschool?
- A: Steve – There is flexibility in the renovations, will watch growth in catchment areas, room built in to increase preschool program. Committed to increasing preschool capacity as space available, will renovate as able. Policy changes from Education Committee will be considered.
DPO rep – Questioned why Wendell Johnson Center was closing.
Steve – Allows blending of students, a less restrictive environment, space planned at New Hoover.
Paul – Teachers are very excited about the changes to the program.
5. Q: How did we get to the point where we spent or allocated all our PPEL and SAVE funds to 2029? How did we run out of money? Why did we borrow 70% against our future earnings?
- A: Chris – We are executing the plan as we laid it out in 2013. Fund front end of plan with SAVE & PPEL and create bond for remaining work. Pay as we go wasn't adequate, this was a good business decision. Cost of construction inflation is the biggest risk. Get it done the sooner the better, 1 year delay could cost \$5.6 million with 3.5 % construction cost inflation rate, a .5% change in interest rate could cost \$11 million.
DPO rep question – Revenues will also go up; will these costs float with the inflation rate?
Chris - Voters approved the plan to borrow ahead when they approved the RPS. Construction inflation was built into projects at the end of the list are planned conservatively, but if they get done early it will save money.
Steve – Did not time order at beginning the of the process, we want them in order. Planned conservatively to build aggressively, the sooner we get it done, the cheaper it will be.
6. Q: Why lock yourself into specific dollar amounts for specific schools in advance? Does this leave little flexibility for future boards and what if there is an emergency?
- A: Duane – Prices are based on building assessments, need for built in budgets to have some certainty.
7. Q: House File 230 – extend SAVE. How would a SAVE extension effect whether and how we use the bond? Or would we keep the SAVE money for future costs – beyond BOND?

- A: Chris – Better to go with Bond, money can be used for other needs or to pay down debt.
Steve – It may not be brought up this session, we would really like them to act on it. We would need a new bond or SAVE dollars if we needed new schools down the road.
8. Q: What other funds are available for facilities? What is PPEL and how can it be used?
- A: Craig Hansel – District always follows the letter of the law. Options are limited on how we can spend. PPEL fund \$10.5 million budget, allocated - \$1.5 spend on bussing, \$1 on debt service, \$8 million on lifecycle funds.
9. Q: How does the FMP help balance FRL in the district? Are there new FRL numbers from the new boundaries?
- A: Steve – FMP does not address balance, it creates seats for kids, Attendance Area Committee worries about this.
Brian– WRM policy can have effect on space, trying to move toward district norms & achievement.
10. Q: How much money is being used for athletics vs. building upgrades?
- A: Steve – We can break this down, will post on district Q & A site. 2015 FMP review the district looked at what else needed to be done. Athletic facilities were scoped out and added to FMP.
11. Q: When you get elementary 100% AC, and the secondary is not and school has to be shortened, will the elementary also have to be let out? Is there a way to front load the AC to avoid this?
- A: Steve – All elementary schools have to be released if need arises. Working with Durham on a plan. Secondary students have a higher tolerance, there is more flexibility to move to classes and relocate to A/C portions of the school.
12. Q: Were the 2013 platted developments used for the enrollment reports? Is there newer information available to provide better numbers?
- A: Steve – Pulls anything recorded in cities that have been approve & reported. There is constant development in the area.
Brian – Check enrollment numbers every two years, decided in May 2016 to get December 2016 report, use conversations with the cities to stay aware.
13. Q: Horn is currently over capacity but is not on the bond for projects that will address these needs. Our music is meeting in a small classroom and we have temporaries with ELP and band. It was stated that there won't be temporaries

once the bond projects are done. How is that possible when we already have them at Horn?

A: Steve – Enrollment at school can change by taking students away

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenni Mettemeyer, DPO Co-Secretary

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 at Twain Elementary
Topic: Extracurricular Clubs and Activities Panel