

DISTRICTWIDE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

http://www.edline.net/pages/ICCSA/parents/District_Parents_Organization

Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2019

Attendees included: Cynthia Crossett Powell, Michael Tilley , Lisa Williams, Rachel Salamo, Nick Proud, Carmen Finken, Yu Yu), Kate Middleton, Laura Noiseux , Jenni Mettemeyer, Suzanne Halekas, Ellen Sweet,, Marisa Keeney, Marla Swesey, Chace Ramey Steve Murley, Matt Degner, Amy Kortemeyer, Britta Loftus, Sheila Pinter, Maryanne Nelson, Tea Ho, Bea Tannous, Kristen HixenbaugSean Eyestone, Janet Godwin, Chad Meacham, Mary Murphy, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Matt Degner, Susan Brennan, Stevie Tommey, Noor Miller, Eric Johnson.

Representing: Alexander, Borlaug, City High, Coralville Central, Garner, Grant, Hoover, Horn, Kirkwood, Lemme, Liberty, Lincoln, Longfellow, Lucas, Mann, SEJH, North Central, Northwest, Penn, Shimek, Transitions Services Center, Twain, Van Allen, Weber, West High, Wickham, Wood, ESC, UNI, ICCSD Foundation, ICCSD School Board.

I. Gathering time , Lunch & Socializing, Opening of Meeting

Stevie Tommey and Noor Miller opened the meeting. There are still officer positions available. These positions are open to any interested parties, including new DPO members and/or attendees. No experience is necessary. Thank you to the Hoover parent organization for lunch.

II. District Parent Organization Officer Reports

- Co-Presidents Past - Miriam Timmer-Hackert reported DPO is still working on the By-Laws and stated there is a school board candidate forum scheduled on October 23 with the League of Women Voters. Eric Johnson described the officer roles for attendees and invited attendees to consider joining the DPO board.
- Co-Secretaries - Mary Murphy asked for approval of May minutes. Approval of and attendees approved the same. Approval of September minutes was deferred to the November meeting.
- Treasurer - Cyndi Crossett-Powell said she has due letters.

III. Welcome from Hoover Principal

Hoover principal Dennis Harnack greeting everyone. Hoover

- has a lot of flexible space;
- about two classrooms don't have regular classes;
- has 425 students;
- brought traditions from old Hoover over
- the grounds are beautiful;
- Hoover is establishing new traditions;
- invited everyone to visit the beautiful library.
- kids are enjoying the common area, which he invited us to visit.

DISTRICTWIDE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

http://www.edline.net/pages/ICCSd/parents/District_Parents_Organization

IV. Iowa City Community School District Reports (11:55)

- School Board Representative - Sean Eyestone reported the education committee met. At the September 24th meeting and especially at the work session,
 - i. the board talked about the FMP (Facilities Master Plan) 2.0 and how to tie it back to the strategic goals,
 - ii. the board received an update on threat assessments,
 - iii. student reps mentioned the climate strike,
 - iv. the board received an update on playgrounds inclusivity,
 - v. the board “got up on *Crisis Response* and will stop calling it a *threat assessment*.”
 - vi. the board started to talk about secondary schools and the voluntary transfer policy--“the elementary is restricted.”
 - vii. the board approved an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Americorps.
 - viii. Mary Murphy asked whether the board could include in its strategic plan [<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://www.iowacityschools.org//cms/lib/IA01903939/Centricity/Domain/21/Strategic+Plan.pdf>] academic goals for all students instead of just striving for students to reach proficiency in reading and math, which is below the median in Iowa. Board member Janet Godwin said it is a long process to align goals. Amy Kortemeyer said the buildings are talking about growth. Mary noted that the building goals should be aligned to the strategic plan goals and that she asked the board about having strategic plan academic goals for all students over a year ago. Superintendent Murley stated the board had robust conversations about what schools should look at with the FMP and that academics drive the FMP.
 - ix. Mr. Murley also added that October 1st was the count date for students, the district will get the certified enrollment count back from the state by October 31st, and enrollment drives funding.
- Foundation Representative Susan Brennan said
 - i. thank you for dining out,
 - ii. 4th graders went to the symphony with two student conductors chosen through an application process,
 - iii. the visiting author next week is Melissa Sweet, and
 - iv. the Run for the Schools is October 27--Eric Johnson pointed out the distribution of money is based upon participation and asked if there was any way to get students from underrepresented school more funding. Susan said they will see if people can pick schools to better capture underrepresented schools.
- Nick Proud of ESC who is the interim director of Business Services said the

DISTRICTWIDE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

http://www.edline.net/pages/ICCSd/parents/District_Parents_Organization

district is working with UNI to have an MOU to work with Americorp Green America.

V. Presentation

Carmen from UNI for the Center of Energy Environmental Education (EEE) presented. Eric Gibbens will work with Nic Proud. She manages Green Iowa Americorps and partners with school districts. ICCSD will get two Green Iowa Americorp workers who will work with the district for eleven months as sustainability workers to create a plan and will also hire high school workers during the summer, which UNI will pay. Things they might work on include energy audits, food waste, school gardens, grant writing, fundraising, etc.

[<https://www.greeniowaamericorps.org/>
&<https://ceee.uni.edu/>]

Tea Ho asked who guides the process/ Murley said the district is working with Eric at UNI on a climate action plan to bring back to the board in December and that they just did a rooftop analysis to determine, for example, what rooftops will support solar, how will we change people's behaviors, etc. Tea asked "what about trickle up from kids?" "How do we not use plastic forks?" The school uses plastic forks. Nick said he is talking with ESC about how to empower our students. Tea said the momentum is high now and how can we keep the momentum going. Mr. Murley said students at the board meeting are talking about food, which looms large. He wants to keep them engaged.

Stevie Toomey was the next speaker. She has children in the district and when having lunch with her daughter in 2016 noted there was no recycling at Mann so she started a pilot project to recycle milk cartons. The school had 270 students. Next they tracked recyclables and started a Mann Environmental Club. Kids wrote on a form what they wanted to do and started recycling plastic and then for breakfast. The kids now do not need her to be there anymore because they recycle on their own. The custodian estimated how many pounds were going into the landfill. Because the building administrators are busy, the change to recycle needs to come from higher up. Sending waste to the landfill costs the district money and recycling would save money. We need to start now. North Central Junior High has rotating classrooms helping with recycling. Stevie suggests having kids who may not have someone to sit with in the lunchroom be helpers. The most important step is to keep student enthusiasm high--examples to accomplish this include newsletter, waste free lunches, etc. Consider using boxes for kids to play in. Have a volunteer wash utensils for a school party. Question from a parent--Who was responsible for taking recycling? Stevie said she did personally. A Weber parent asked what was the biggest challenge? The compost is smelly and dirty. How can we get the compost picked up at school? Stevie suggested a contract with ICCSD. A parent reached out to Jane ?, a recycling coordinator who is willing to help. Stevie said change has to come from ICCSD leadership because they have authority. Johnson County Refuse is on a month to month contract. So negotiate a contract and start in December!

DISTRICTWIDE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

http://www.edline.net/pages/ICCSd/parents/District_Parents_Organization

Tea asked the Administration--"How do we make this happen?" Mr. Murley will look for feedback on composting. ICCSD did try metalware (silverware) but had losses and found it expensive.

A parent asked if a product could be switched out. Mr. Murley said federal law required free and reduced lunch children to take a milk. A parent suggested kids bring their own silverware. Another parent suggested kids have a reusable meal kit. A parent said she has a problem with saying we can't teach kids not to throw away silverware.

Chace Ramey introduced himself and has now taken over food service and facilities. He is willing to meet with parents and wants input. It doesn't need to go to the board first.

VI. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy, DPO Co-Secretary

Next Meeting:

December 11, 2019, Twain Elementary
Sports (transportation, uniforms, etc.)

Feel free to email dpoiccsd@gmail.com with feedback or questions.

District Parent Organization Executive Board:

Co-Presidents: Stevie Toomey, Noor Miller

Co-Presidents Elect : Chad Meacham

Co-Presidents Past: Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Eric Johnson

Co-Secretaries: Mary Murphy

Treasurer: Cyndi Crossett-Powell