

DISTRICTWIDE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.iowacityschools.org/DPO

2019 December 18 DPO Meeting Minutes

Attendees included Stevie Tommey, Noor Miller, Chad Meacham, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Eric Johnson, Jenni Mettemeyer, Mary Murphy, Cynthia Crossett-Powell, Michael Tilley, Marla Swesey, Maryanne Nelson, Tea Ho, Kristen Hixenbaug, Susan Brennan, Matt Degner, Shawn Eyestone, Amy Kortemeyer, Valerie Blau, Yu Yu, Tara Johnson, Ben Brozene, Suzanne Halekes, Brianna Wills, Chris Loftus, Jackie Marquardt, Traci Olson, Charles Eastham, and Amy Kraber.

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.

DPO Co-President Stevie Toomey opened the meeting, thanked everyone for being present and the Twain parent group for providing lunch.

District Parent Organization Officer Reports

- **DPO Co-Past President Miriam Timmer-Hackert** stated the DPO still needs a Co-President Elect and that the DPO is considering establishing a nominating committee. If you have any interest, please contact any DPO member.
- **DPO Co-Past President Eric Johnson** reminded the attendees that the DPO has a scholarship where school parent groups select one or more individuals to honor (e.g. retiring teacher, etc.). Parent groups should submit a short biography of the honorees along with a \$50 check, which will be used to provide the scholarships. The reception for the honorees is in April and scholarships are awarded at this time to eligible students who have applied and intend to go into teaching. Please encourage students graduating from high school to apply. The biographies and checks are due March 9th.
- Stevie Toomey asked for a motion to approve the November DPO minutes. The attendees approved the November 2019 minutes.
- **Treasurer Cyndi Crossett-Powell** stated the remaining schools still need to pay dues: Borlaug, City High, Garner, Hills, Hoover, Longfellow, West High, and Wickham.

Jason McGinnis Principal at Twain welcomed the group and said he was in his second year at Twain after spending seventeen years in Chicago schools. He stated Twain is a wonderful school that was built in 1954. There were additions to Twain in 1961, 2015, and 2018. The Twain motto is to be respectful, responsible, and caring.

- Twain works with Americorp, has around 33% English Language Learner (ELL) students, and has a free and reduced lunch (FRL) around 61%. Twain has many programs that are available to and support students, and about half of its students are involved in something. Principal McGinnis thanked everyone for coming, and said to call him if anyone is interested in a tour.
- Miriam Timmer-Hackert asked if Twain had a full time librarian. Principal McGinnis replied that Twain has a one-half time librarian with a media secretary.

School Board Representative Shawn Eyestone stated the following:

- There have been quite a few committee meetings. The board's education committee heard about AVID.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BFUKDR51299D>
- The board's Policy and Governance committee meeting heard about revisions to the policies governing employees.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BJ3MEV59BFBF> [also see upcoming P&G meeting agenda at
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BJTMC9595500>].
- There was a full board meeting on December 10th where all state musicians--around 83 students--were recognized. The board received a clean audit report.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BJ2PUZ662FAO>
- The equity plan was renamed to the Comprehensive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan [for 2020-2022].
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BGZKX94C8560>
- There are new LGBTQ Administrative Guidelines.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BGZKX64C74D8>
- The board received enrollment numbers and grew by 286 students.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BGTMWR5B77CO>
- There was a work session on the 10th. The board was updated on the climate action plan.
- At the Education meeting last night, the board heard about family leadership.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BFUKFK5173D4>
- There was a brief board retreat to discuss building a mission and vision. The next retreat is in January.
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BJGKYH53E77E>

Superintendent Steve Murley stated the following:

- The start of the legislative session is January 13.
- The Iowa Department of Education asked for less money this year than last year. Superintendent Murley is concerned.
- ICCSD gets information from School Administrators Iowa, the Iowa Association of School Boards, the Urban Education network and will send it to the DPO to pass on.
- ICCSD administration wants more resources for social emotional learning.
- He will organize a trip to the Capitol.

Susan Brennan, ICCSD's Foundation Director stated the following:

- The first half of the school year was awesome and thank you!
- The Hills Bank Classroom Cash program has given more than \$430,000 to ICCSD, which is helping to fund, among other things, Dreambox.
- The Run for the Schools over time has given more than \$1 million and \$23,000 was given on the 10th.
- The district made \$14,000 on the last dine out.
- The foundation will run a grant cycle for the staff--"Big Idea Hunt."
- Happy Holiday!

Craig Huegel, Athletic Director and West High and Mike Morrison, Athletic Director at Liberty High were the presenters.

The athletic directors are responsible for the entire direction of the whole athletic program.

Craig has been an athletic director for twelve years and is in his 4th year in ICCSD. Prior, he was a social studies teacher. **Mike** is in his 3rd job in education, previously was a math teacher, and has two children in pharmacy school.

Craig stated the first question is always "what do you guys do?" Athletic directors do a wide variety of things and work with lots of different groups. They don't do it by themselves--they are surrounded by teachers, staff, administration and parents who all contribute.

"What are we?" They place the emphasis on "student athlete." Many ICCSD athletes earn "Academic Distinction."

They may not be teaching algebra; however, they are teaching other skills like "how to handle adversity." They strive to provide "kids with a great experience." They want kids to be glad they were a member of a team, they want kids to learn is okay to fail. Craig states a coach early in his career told him high school was a safe place because it is okay to fail.

"What are we not?" They are not AAU and club sports. They have academic and behavior guidelines. They are not a pay to play scenario. They love when kids get scholarships; however, that is not the only function. They provide female sports and are thrilled with the success of the swim teams.

Mike Morrison stated that having a "Girls Union" <https://www.ighsau.org/> and "Boys Association" <https://www.iahsaa.org/> is unique to Iowa and it works.

Cheer and Dance are not sanctioned sports. They care about the dance team as much as sports. Iowa is the only state that offers summer baseball and softball.

ICCSD has multiple levels of sports.

“How are we funded?” Craig thinks they are less than ½ of a percent of the school district’s budget. They get around \$14,000 to be used for a safety focus (e.g. football helmets and catcher’s gear). The district pays for coaching salaries and a majority of transportation.

There is an **Iowa City Boosters** for West, Liberty, and City that is a 501(c)(3) organization (not for profit). Underneath that is another layer of boosters for **Club West, Liberty Lightning, and City High Little Hawks**. The individual booster clubs raise funds for needs that are unique to the schools.

There are two major fundraisers--Kinnick Stadium Cleanup and Pancake Day.

Mike stated that at Liberty, having new everything means that everything will need to be replaced at the same time. Right now, Liberty’s cut of the entire dollars is less than City and West because enrollment is not full. This will change over time.

They want equity of opportunity for kids. They are very aware of the equity piece, including Title IX where boys and girls must be treated equitably. The Athletic Directors have to take equity into account and think as a group.

A parent asked if there was a disparity between funds among the schools. The reply was that the schools don’t raise exactly the same amount but it is not a huge disparity.

There was an interlude where Twain students came in and sang while a teacher played the ukele.

[Back to Rules and Guidelines]

The girl’s union includes sports, dance, speech, and music. The boy’s association includes male sports.

There is a **Good Conduct Policy for Athletes** that applies 24 hours a day.

Results

The Athletic Directors are proud of their athletes and academic success.

Relationship

A lot of kids join athletics because they need somewhere to belong.

FAQs

The FAQs includes multiples questions such as **“What sports do we offer?”** More female sports are offered than male sports because so many male athletes participate in football.

There is no data tracked on the number of students who try out for sports, nor how many are cut.

“How are students transported?” Mike stated that students in the Kirkwood area were to be provided activity bussing but it cost \$1,000 per week so the district used Yellow Cabs. Background checks on the drivers are done by Yellow Cab. The kids know the service is available. If they need it, they see Mike. Approximately 20-22 kids use the service now. The kids see the athletic directors if they need help with transportation to activities.

Craig stated, The **Live Like Line Foundation** is available to help schools with athletics and other needs. It’s not limited to athletics.

A question was asked about **whether cheer and dance are considered sports?** The answer--not officially. The benefit is that once a sport is sanctioned, there are a lot of rules and now dance can be coached all year.

A question was asked about **whether schools were affiliated with club teams?** The schools don’t sponsor the club teams; however, the connection provides communication.

The DPO Co-Presidents thanked the attendees for coming and Craig and Mike for presenting, and the meeting was adjourned by 1:00 p.m. Mike and Craig stayed around to answer questions.

Respectfully submitted,

By DPO Co-Secretaries
Mary Murphy and Michael Tilley

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, January 8, 2020,
Borlaug Elementary at 1000 Kennedy Pkwy, Coralville, IA 52241, Iowa City, IA 52246
Topic: Legislative priorities pertaining to education in Iowa
-Randy Richardson.

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, Michael Tilley
Treasurer: Cyndi Crossett-Powell