

District Council Minutes

May 12, 2015. 3:00 at Nassau

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, September 22, 2015. 3:00 at TBD** (Hagan or Nassau).

Attendees: Julia Caldwell (student rep), Sharon Ciccone (elementary teacher rep), John Farrell (elementary school rep), Jennifer Kaufman (HS parent rep), Steve Malkischer (secondary school principal rep), Ellen Marble (community rep), Cathy Porco (Nassau parent rep), Lois Powell (superintendent), Erin Ruppert (Hagan parent rep), Vickie Setzer (Todd parents rep), and Mark Van Horne (secondary school teacher rep)

We wish great luck to our student rep, James Linacre, graduating senior. Congratulations James!

Follow-Up from February Meeting: Testing

John Farrell, Tina DeSa, Lori Mulford and Lois Powell are meeting to discuss removing one administration of K-5 MAP testing and when MAPS would take place if go down to 2x/year.

Baldrige Feedback Report

Looking at the feedback we addressed primarily the bold issues. It seemed important to address the items that align with the strategic plan, that give us the most leverage, that are of greater importance, or are relatively easy to fix and move forward.

Action All Members: Any questions/concerns, contact Lois. The 1st District Council meeting next school year will focus on the items that concern District Council.

Parent Survey Results

After receiving input from Hagan SBT, the following schedule was decided for parent surveys: Late fall (around Parent-Teacher conferences) for Elementary School.

Beginning of school year (at Open House as study hall, lunch periods, etc. offer opportunities for parents to take it) for Todd/High School.

We discussed "survey fatigue" and decided:

Full Parent Surveys (60+ questions) would be administered every other year (next administration 2016-2017) and include comment line per question. This will also give Site-Based Teams more time to develop goals and act on the results

Parent Survey Custom Questions would be administered every year starting fall 2015.

Student Surveys would be administered in February every year during a structured class (alternate between English and SS). Captive audience so results produce higher degree of reliability.

Teacher Surveys would be administered every year. Captive audience so results produce higher degree of reliability.

Follow-up (focus group, getting information from PTA and other groups) is important because the results are typically not actionable. The comment lines and custom questions (10 each to be added to teacher and student surveys as well) should help.

We discussed the importance of getting more parents to participate on the survey, that statistically not getting significant number of responses. It was pointed out that if we show we do something with the results that's meaningful, that might prod more parents to participate.

It was noted that a continuum of responses over the years would be helpful to follow the trends.

Action (Lois Powell): Lois will see if the company produces a report that tracks the results of Spackenkill over the years of our administering the survey.

Subcommittee of District Council met (John Farrell, Jennifer Kaufman, Steve Malkischer, Lois Powell, Erin Ruppert, and Vickie Setzer). In March, they reviewed the overall survey results, identified ambiguous questions and identified areas of concern/common themes. In April, they reworked the custom questions.

Feedback from parents in the district suggested wording change to one of the revised questions: "*I feel my child is engaged as a result of technology used in the classroom.*" Just because engaged didn't necessarily equate to learning. Suggested wording change: "*Technology in the classroom is having a positive impact on my child's learning.*"

Public Relations Plan

A community member at a Board of Ed meeting suggested promoting our district to combat our decreasing enrollment. Mary Forsell developed a Spackenkill brochure to give to real estate reps. Several members will pass along the brochure (or pdf of the brochure) to real estate reps for feedback. We discussed the high number of houses for sale in Spackenkill. We discussed promoting the key aspects of Spackenkill – small class sizes, small community; that why not rely on FB or district website to link to information that will likely change; that the brochure already had outdated material on it; that it could be smaller and less expensive to produce; that some of the material did not mean a lot to parents. Who will be responsible for making sure old brochures are tossed and replaced with new ones?

Action: The brochure will be passed along to several real estate reps for review.

Action: Feedback any comments to Lois Powell. The goal is to have this completed by July when people typically move.

Membership Rotation

Needed:

Community representative (Ellen Marble will not be able to participate next year)

Staff representative (having a representative relates to our Baldrige feedback plans)

Hagan representative (Erin Ruppert will not be able to participate next year)

Todd representative (Vickie Setzer will only have students in the HS next year)

Student representative (James Linacre is graduating. Julia Caldwell will remain on DC next year).

It is possible the Nassau representation, Cathy Porco, will need to be replaced as well as schedule may be difficult to accommodate.

Vickie Setzer and Jennifer Kaufman both only have students in the HS next year. Vickie Setzer will become HS representative.

Sharon Ciccone and Mark Van Horne will see if anyone wants to take their spots as teacher reps. To avoid too much turnover, the hope is not to have both obtain replacements.

Self-Assessment

The District Council took the brief self-assessment questionnaire. Mark Van Horne will kindly tabulate the results again this year.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 3:00; location will be either Hagan or Nassau due to time of elementary school dismissal.

Action All Members: If anyone has any items to add to this agenda, contact Lois Powell.