

District Council Minutes

November 12, 2013. 3:30 at Hagan

Next Meeting: **January 9**, 2014. 3:30 at Hagan.

Attendees: Julia Caldwell (student rep), Sharon Ciccone (elementary teacher rep), Dana Jackson (student rep), Jennifer Kaufman (HS parent rep), Steve Malkischer (secondary school principal rep), Ellen Marble (community rep), Jeannie Nemes (staff rep), Lois Powell (superintendent), Erin Ruppert (Hagan parent rep) and Mark VanHorne (secondary school teacher rep)

- We welcomed Erin Ruppert, our Hagan parent representative.
- Parent Survey:

We reviewed the parent survey. We can add 10 questions if there are topics the survey does not cover that we want addressed. What topics would be valuable to school employees to have parents' views on? The questions can be open-ended. Note: items related to the budget (such as 2% tax cap) will be on a separate budget survey.

Action Item: Provide any topics or draft questions, if you have any, by 11/30 to Lois Powell

Action Item: Lois will send out an e-mail reminder.

Current ideas: topical issues, such as satisfaction with new curriculum, amount and type of testing, and concern about privacy issues.

Action Item: Lois will ask Scott Schnackenberg to review the survey and to help develop draft questions.

Will there be one survey per child? The survey says: "parents with two or more students should base responses on the one school with which they are most familiar."
Can we add a Not Applicable option?

Action Item: Lois will contact the company and find out.

- Student Survey

The student survey (for grades 6-12) is similar to the parent one but is done with pen and paper only (which is quicker since don't have to rotate through computer labs). Typically these tests are more expensive as a result, but not with this company. We discussed open-ended questions such as 2-3 things you like most and 2-3 things you'd like to see improve.

- Site-Based Team (SBT) Self-Assessment

We received copies of the new SBT self-assessment. Each member of a building SBT can fill out the form and then roll their results together or work collaboratively on one form without the principal present in the room, for example. Although we agreed it makes more sense to do the self-assessment at the end of the year, the results are due to NYSED on February 1. The state-related questions are delineated to make it easy for our district to fill out the NYSED form while still making the questions useful to our SBTs. Teams can offer the assessment to their members in June and in the future the June results can be used for NYSED. If people are having trouble with any of the questions, we will adjust the self-assessment accordingly for the future. The idea is to have a useful assessment.

Action Item: Each SBT needs to provide collaborative results from their members to feed into the State form.

Responsible: One council member from each SBT.

- **Withdrawal from RTTT:**

Lois handed out a copy of her posting on Superintendent's Corner.

RTTT – money from Federal Gov't to State (NY received \$700M) to districts (Spackenkill received \$9700K over 4 years). School districts, including Spackenkill, withdrew because of student privacy concerns. Technically the district is supposed to submit information regardless, but with the inBloom database and what they are asking for it is more invasive including discipline records and there are data points for things like non-traditional gender roles. Although we currently report discipline records, they are not reported by student name. In the inBloom database the students would be identified by name. As far as where some of the other answers would come from (like non-traditional gender roles), it's unclear where the school would get this information. There are many questions for State Ed but they haven't gotten us the answers.

We don't have to give money back that we've already spent. BOCES is going to continue to charge us the same rate for professional development. The RTTT money didn't cover all the requirements: professional development cost of APPR and common core implementation. We no longer have to select one of the 3 data dashboards.

- **Building Use and Budget Forums.**

Building Use Forum scheduled for Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 at Todd. There are 600 students between Hagan and Nassau. It was noted that at one point there were 550 students in Hagan alone.

There were 9 questions at the Budget Forum and each group discussed 2 questions plus the building use option. Each group had a completely different opinion with respect to building use from "keep them all we need to grow" to "close one a.s.a.p." to "take our time and study the implications."

We received about 10 evaluation forms, which were mailed out 10/30, from 60 attendees.

- **Baldrige Consultant**

The consultant is meeting with administration on January 9th and Lois is trying to arrange it so he can also meet with the District Council as well. He is reviewing our Strategic Plan and has ideas to make it stronger. We have to participate in a State program to go on to the National level.

- **Next Meeting Date/Agenda**

Next Meeting: January 9th at 3:30 at Hagan.

We will review the SBT assessments to create a district-wide assessment for NYSED and plan to meet with Baldrige consultant to discuss strategic plan.

We agreed we would approve our meeting minutes via e-mail.