District Parent Council
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
9:30 a.m. Timberlane Office Board Room
Minutes

Present: LaVendee Fulton, Liesel Carlson, Judy Kehler, Brandy Shumaker, Cris Calderon, Elizabeth Vanis, Jeanne Maguire, Babs Krause, Linda Wychers-Caldwell, Dave Chapin

I. Welcome and Housekeeping

- Self-assessment survey questions will be finalized next month; last year's Red Cedar council survey will be made available to DPC
- Elizabeth Vanis reviewed topic of last month's Academic Committee (the H S survey results from Dr Dorinda Carter); council wondered how "cultural competency" has been defined, both by the district and by Dr Carter
- Parent-teacher conference survey update – H S leaders met with John Brandenburg; recommendations to be reviewed at January parent council meeting; MMS leaders yet to meet with Merem Frierson; reminder that parent-teacher conference preparation materials should be provided at the August boot camp
- Reviewed December 18 "bullying report statistics" LSJ article

II. Superintendent/BOE Report – Babs Krause (in the absence of Dr Chapin)

Babs reviewed Board meeting items from the previous night's session. School board officers were elected, with Rima remaining as President; no changes in council liaisons at this time; MMS council liaison to be determined. Process to hire a realtor for the Timberlane property has begun; council was reminded that the music school lease expires December 2012. Update regarding pre-K offering through the Great Start Readiness program for 32 EL families who are presently on the Head Start waiting list.

Council initiated discussion regarding protocol for incorporating the subject of the upcoming February bond into their meetings. Babs will supply Jeanne with a FAQ sheet from the IRS regarding legal limitations. Ideally council leaders will eventually have a document that describes legal limitations and allowances for 501(c) 3 non-profit groups regarding ballot initiative discussion and positions, legislative issues and school board elections. DPC members were reminded that it is unlawful for the council board, as a body, to take a stance on a legislative or ballot issue. Council leaders may share their personal opinion outside of the meeting.

Council members confirmed that from a legal perspective, they may choose to accept the request of an opinion group to be on their meeting agenda, and they have the freedom to decline that request. If they accept the request, they have no obligation to arrange for a different opinion group to also be present. In regards to the February vote, Dr Chapin is willing to speak to and take questions from building council groups and is available any evening other than Feb 14 & 15.

DPC members agreed that it is important for councils to be inclusive and not present themselves in a way that could divide or alienate parents within their school building population. The DPC will revise the existing council policy statement about legislative action limitations to include something similar to: "Councils should operate so that parents of the school do not perceive that the council board, as a unified body, has an alignment with one legislative or ballot initiative over another." She'll also add a common practice that will reflect the discussion regarding the need to

inform members in advance when an opinion group is on the agenda, and to ensure that the meeting format will allow for different opinions to be shared. The group agreed that the sharing of other opinions need not be in the form of a separate presentation but could instead be offered by allowing comments from the floor following a presentation.

It was suggested that council leaders are given a reminder that prior to an opinion group's presentation, the leader should remind the audience that "we, as a council Board, are not taking a position on this issue".

It was suggested that the pictures/diagrams of each of the school renovations be available on the website, with a link to that webpage provided to families via eblast.

Aside: Council discussed the limitation of council presidents when sharing personal views during the course of a meeting discussion or participating in a vote. [*Follow up and clarification per Roberts Rules of Order is attached to January minutes.*]

III. Next Month's Focus Discussion (Agenda item out of order)

DPC members agreed to devote conversation energy to the reported inconsistency between K-6 buildings regarding how teachers handle accelerated students. Should there be a uniform method of how to motivate and challenge these learners? The group will invite Cliff Seybert to speak on this issue, ideally with information on how each school currently handles these students.

It was suggested that the DPC group also ask for a response from administration (Dr Chapin and Cliff) regarding the "Top Down" report which contains academic achievement data, statistics and rankings; Jeanne will attempt to provide for everyone prior to the next meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report (continued) (Dr Chapin)

Dr Chapin reviewed Superintendent Goals document, with group discussion surrounding hiring practices, in regards to timing and diversity; also group discussion regarding teacher evaluation model currently put in place.

V. December Focus Discussion Follow up – Emergency Protocol

Update from Dr Chapin: AEDs (defib units) are installed at every school building. Dr Chapin will be participating in an AED demonstration later in the day. Based on what he learns, he will address the role of CPR protocol for each school. No time has yet been determined for when procedures for AED use/CPR administration will be required for each building or when CPR training will be provided to designated employees. Dr Chapin hopes to have this done soon.

VI. Individual School Reports – tabled due to time constraints

Adjourned at 11:30 am.

Next meeting February 14 at 9:30 am in the Timberlane Office Board Room.

Homework for February Meeting: Review questions on council self-assessment survey – any additions, deletions or suggestions?