

East Lansing Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday October 18, 2011
East Lansing High School – HUB
7-9pm, Adjourned 9:17pm

Minutes submitted by: Kimbirly Bodfish

Attendance: Lural Baltimore, Tessie Cardenas, Jeanne Maguire, Andy Korest, Kimbirly Bodfish, Teri Thompson, Kristy Weber, Ginger Pearce, Matt Syal, Dianne Syal, Lisa Rutkowski, Greg Rutkowski, Lisa Huberty, Dan Dettweiler, Doug Maier, Stacey Bieler, Jill Canny, Tama Hamilton-Wray, Elizabeth Vanis, Donna Rich-Kaplowitz

- I. Welcome / Introductions
- II. Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes: Lural moved to approve – Approved
- III. Focus Discussion: Examining Our ELHS Climate and Culture

John Brandenburg - Academic culture

- a. Accountability – teachers, students, programs, everything – taken seriously
- b. Inviting parents to contact him
- c. Classrooms – consistency. Common expectations, grading policies, final exam, syllabus. Teachers are now turning in lesson plans to John – student based objectives and the activities to reach those objectives. John spends a lot of time walking through the classrooms. Looking for 5 things: student based objectives, teachers engaging students, students engaged with the content, teachers checking for understanding, consistent/equitable behavior expectations in the classroom. New process, dropping in daily, unexpected.
- d. School culture – walking through the school, halls, lunch. We are here to help the students. Making it a place where the kids want to be.

Question about getting grades back to students – Expectation is to remediate quickly. John can assess through power school to determine if this is happening. Tim V. – with the lesson plans, can determine when tests happen and when feedback is given. They are working towards these expectations but not quite there. There is no standard for follow up for failure or low grades.

How to approach and intervene with students who require an intervention? Tiered intervention process. RTI model. Tier 1 – 80% in classroom. There is a checklist for teachers to follow. *Is it on line for parents to see the process?* Working on fitting the curriculum to the students as part of the approach. Helping teachers to do this.

What should parents ask teachers? What interventions have you used? How have you amended the curriculum to fit the student?

Steps to follow: First – Students ask teacher; Second – Parent email teacher; Third – Parent email John

Tim V – Big picture

How do you change the course of something with a lot of inertia...things are not going to change overnight – need time. Faculty/staff have made changes at the administrative level to come together to adjust the institutional philosophy. The common question: is it fair/equitable/consistent? How to relay to students? PBIS (student lead) – what is this...how to

deliver these expectations to the students. Example of videos: skipping in the lunchroom. ELHS has a lot to offer students...getting them involved...fair/equitable/student driven...

Nancy Artman – Positive behavior.

Background in special education. RTI basis – positive based. Teachers taking responsibility for minor disruptions in the classroom, contacting students and parents as a first approach. Major disruptions sent to Nancy (fighting, defiance, lying, cheating). Talking out the issue with students. Positive referral form – Trojan TURF. Rewarding with small items from the school. Using mentors – faculty and staff taking on students who might need additional support in school. 40+ students with needs and 27 teachers/faculty/staff responded. Positive postcards (Trojan turf).

Collecting data based on minor and major and creating reports to assess when where why these behaviors might be occurring.

Teaching teachers how to manage and support students to remain in the classroom rather than sending students out of the classroom. Proactive approach. First interactions to deescalate, Nancy helping teachers to do this. Using mutual respect rather than authoritative. Modeling good behavior.

Parent comment: Students mentoring students...seniors with freshmen, whole school approach.

Parent comment: Where are the counselors? Mainly academic.

Scott Sexton

ELPD 1998. School assignment 2008, last year in school. 3 year rotation. Knows the juniors and sophomores best. Safety of the school is the primary responsibility. In the hallways throughout the day. No formal training for the school position. Not involved in the hats/phones...does encourage kids to get into the classroom. The goal is to that everyone goes home in the same condition as they arrived. Only involved when called upon by administration to be involved with an incident. Any ELPD reports about high school students get referred to Officer Sexton. He is here from 9-3. It has been a good/easy year so far with the administrative changes.

How many schools offer school based officer – Lansing cut their program, they had 3 officers. Holt has 1. Haslet and Okemos share an officer. Each officer is 50-60%. EL k-8 50% school. ELHS is the only one to have a full time officer. Lansing has adopted a new disciplinary process; using remediation (restorative justice).

Looking into training and policy and procedures for new school officers by ELPD. Special attention to students with special needs. Getting to know students; students getting to know you. Wearing the uniform is important.

Cultural competency components important. SEPLA – faculty and cops together in mt pleasant. Administrators are free. Working together for a whole week.

- IV. Emergency safety protocol. Totally absent...while the plan is being finalized, 911 is the immediate response. Tim V, collecting various programs to assess effectiveness. Put together the protocol. Will be approved by admin team. Medical emergency procedure is the only component missing. Close to final draft.

What is the review process? Red Cross, Schools, Public Health, Attorney's, Board

Can parents comment on the draft? This will be a district wide protocol and will go through district parent council.

- V. Board of Education Report (5 min)
 - a. Bond issue vote closing red cedar, 6th grade to middle school in February.
 - b. Approved hiring of Ms Artman.
 - c. Approved a new dean of students at Glencarin. Linea Martin.
 - d. Personal curriculum modifications for PE, health, and economics. Students have taken above and beyond math and science English and foreign language.
 - e. 6% dropout rate for ELHS. How does that relate to the 82% graduation rate? Cliff Seybert question.
 - f. Increase number of students, but not as much as expected so a decrease in the budget expectations.

VI. ELHS Principal Report: Above encompassed report

- VII. District Parent Council Q

Asking all buildings: *What is this building's parent-teacher conference attendance goal? How is that communicated to teachers and families? Determine the conference sign up procedures and how it is communicated to school families. Follow up afterwards by finding out what % of your building's families attended.*

 - a. Religious and cultural calendar shared with parent councils.
 - b. Parent line is not the best method to deliver information about parent-teacher conferences.
 - c. What can PC provide about questions to ask? How about sharing with teachers? At staff meeting?

- VIII. Council Treasurer's report
 - a. \$1,000.00 down in fundraising.
 - b. Jeanne to motion to approve budget with amendments as noted (see next) - APPROVED
 - c. Jeanne to motion to set aside \$250 miscellaneous line item designated to positive behavior program. Trojan Turf for tangible rewards, APPROVED

- IX. Committee Updates
 - a. Volunteer, Teacher Luncheon – November 4th
 - b. Directory is updated and will be sent out next week.

X. Introduction of BOE Candidates: Bill Weckesser, Konrad Hittner, Hillary Henderson

XI. New Business

Next meeting: November 15, Focus Topic: Trends in College Admissions. Representatives from MSU, LCC and a Mid-Michigan private college join us to discuss the latest trends in college Admissions. An updated school profile and Class of 2011 college choice data will be provided. **Adding Nov 15 meeting to the daily announcements to encourage student attendance.** Christian Polasty 15 minute conversation with tech guy...need input on high school parent tech needs.