

ACEC Board Meeting

December 21, 2020

Participants: Ashley Bath, Erica Cates, Rebecca Bardosy, Ashay Desai, Dana Patel, Bryan Engelhardt, Erika Gregorius, Liz Bradley, Nicole Valencic, Jeremy Ondresky, Shari Hanneman

Meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Intro:

Meeting minutes from last month were approved.

As noted on the agenda, future meetings will be from 7-8 pm (dates: 1/25, 2/22, 3/15, 4/26, 5/24).

Principal Report:

Update on PBIS - the school is actively working on what it means to be a STAR student.

- "Behavior Reflections" sheet is given to a student when they are sent to the office: it is to help determine the behavior, what caused the behavior, and the consequences of the behavior. The goal is to understand what is causing the behavior so that it doesn't happen again. The sheet is sent home with the student to be signed by a parent or guardian.
 - When a misbehavior occurs, it is either a minor misbehavior (dealt by the teacher) or a major misbehavior (dealt at the office) and the staff member decides how to deal with the behavior. Data is entered into the database and there is monthly analysis at the leadership meetings (at PLC and building level).
 - A table was shown giving examples of minor and major misbehaviors and examples of responses to those behaviors.
- STAR matrix sets expectations for what they want to see in different environments (library, bathroom, cafeteria, classroom, playground, etc)
- 98% of students have been doing what is expected of them at Roosevelt/Alliance

Teacher point of view: everyone is on the same page for expectations from the students and it seems like a shared effort

Parent Questions: At what point are parents informed? Do parents always get informed every time the child is sent to office? When does the teacher send a student to the principal's office?

How are the students' responding to it?

- Principal will not send a letter home every time a student comes to the office because sometimes it's just a check in. If there is repeated behavior in the classroom, the teacher will send the student to the principal's office for the behavior. This is not supposed to be a surprise for the parent and the goal is to get to the root of what is causing the misbehavior.
- The parent will be informed if a major misbehavior occurs and will be sent to the database.
- Teachers noted that there has been less disruptive outbursts in the school and it seems much calmer

Teacher Report (Bardosy & Bath):

At the teachers' meeting, teachers have noticed that there is a trend of extended absences that are unexcused during this school year (some students being absent for weeks at a time).

Teachers are wondering at what point do these students get unenrolled. This is an issue that they want the board to deal with and would like for something to be written up in the bylaws.

- Parent question: Is there a timeline that this needs to be discussed by?
 - By the end of the school year so that there will be an idea for the next school year - so it will be put on the next agenda so we can get the committee put together

Another thing to remind everyone is that the Kindergarten application deadline is coming up (February 19th). Siblings of current students that are coming in as a kindergartener need to fill out the form so that a spot will be reserved for them.

Classroom updates:

- Grades 1/2/3 are doing sock exchange and students that are in school are making a globe pillow (will be done after the break for virtual students).
- Grades 4/5 had their white elephant last Friday so that they could accommodate for students who are going on vacation. They also were informed that they will be learning recorders since there will be no more keyboarding for the school year.
- Heckrodt is doing in-person field trips starting in January and rolling out through April - different dates have been assigned for different classes.

Treasurer Report (Ondresky):

- Budget was included in the [agenda](#).
- We have raised over \$9,000 from the fundraiser. Our goal was \$6,000 to get us through the fall and winter so this was really good news.
- Noted in the [budget](#): 1st column is approved budget, 2nd column is the adjustments (the things to come), 3rd column is what is already in our account/money that has been spent
- Spring fundraising amount (\$3000) - if we spend what we usually spend, then we may still have to raise that amount in the spring. It is something that we should revisit in February when we have more information.

[Ad-hoc Facilities and Future ACE Pathways Committee](#) (Englehardt):

Englehardt, Bath, Stanford are on a NJSD Elementary School facilities committee to decide what's going to happen when all the 5th graders leave to go to the middle schools per the school district's elementary restructuring plan.

- Since the NJSD's plan involves combining grades 5-8 in the current high school (starting in 2023), they want to determine parent interest in several areas: Where do Alliance parents want their 5th graders to go (continue at Alliance or join 5th graders from other schools at the middle school)? How many classrooms would Alliance need? For example, do we want to start a 4K for our school? Do we want to keep 5th grade as part

of school or send them to middle school with other 5th graders? Or go further and include 6th grade at Alliance?

- Teachers: The idea would be that we would still have the activities/opportunities (clubs, music, sports) at Alliance that other 5th/6th graders would have - for example, they may get transportation to get to those activities.
 - At Horace Mann- students get a choice to join choir, band, or general music and the idea would be that students at Alliance would get these choices as well. Students are also given the choice to learn Spanish, French, or Mandarin and that is something that should be a possibility to Alliance students as well. We do not want staying at Alliance for grades 5/6 to be a detriment.
 - Normally grades K3/K4/K5, 1/2/3, and 4/5/6 are traditionally grouped together at Montessori schools. Expanding our school would allow us to function like a more typical Montessori style school.
 - It would be a more natural feel for kids to transition after 6th grade where they would move to the 7th/8th grade side of the high school building rather than leave Alliance after 5th grade.
- Parent suggestion: Send out a poll that comes with a brief explanation that highlights what a traditional Montessori set up (grade groupings) looks like and let them know that there will not be a loss for the activities that are available at the middle school level.
- There's a sense of urgency to expand the 5/6 because of the change coming up with the district but a 4K class would be an option as well:
 - Per Ms. Bath, the district is very open to expanding Alliance and meeting the school's needs.
 - An idea that is being thrown out is moving to a bigger space but the school needs to know if there is a parent interest before they start looking into it.
- Our numbers for the lottery are heavy in the kindergartners and this would be an opportunity to expand the school and allow for more students to enroll at the school.
 - There would be grant opportunities and funding to help with the financial side of things to help us expand so there would not be a financial burden on parents.
- Parent question regarding when schools started class placements (for example, advanced math classes). Mrs Cates stated that there used to be placement tests for students starting in the 6th grade but it is no longer offered. This would be a good question for the district to find out why there aren't different levels available for students at an earlier age.

The spirit wear fundraiser update & roller skating alternatives were pushed to the next meeting.

Summary: minutes approved, quick review of the PBIS STAR student behavior matrix, teachers asked that extended absences (and thus potential unenrollment) be addressed in the bylaws, families with incoming kindergartners need to hand in applications by February 19th, the fall fundraiser brought in over \$9000, and future ACE pathways were discussed

As always, if parents have any other questions or follow up comments, please feel free to email Bryan or their parent reps.

Meeting ended at 8:05