

Council of Key Communicators

Monday, January 28, 2019

Administration Center Conference Room

9:00 a.m.

Key Communicators in Attendance: Trish Buben, Laura Carr, Diana DiMaria, Cristine Dougherty, Carma Lamm, Terri Ronald, and Alison Sanders

District Administrators in Attendance: Dr. Loughead, Dr. Cunningham, Ms. Berg, Dr. McKaveney, and Mr. Robert Shages (School Board)

Lauren McGuirk, an assistant principal at Quaker Valley, also attended the meeting. She is an intern with Dr. Loughead as part of the Superintendent's program at Duquesne University.

Hampton Happenings

YMCA Childcare Program - Dr. Loughead said the YMCA has received a high volume of calls from families in the HTSD community about the possible Kindergarten child care pilot program which would allow families to contract with the YMCA for a half day of child care opposite of the District's Kindergarten program. The YMCA has the capacity to enroll a total of 18 children (six children from each of the District's three elementary schools). Registrations would be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis on March 4, in order to give parents enough time to consider their options. The YMCA will pay for the cost of transportation for students to travel mid-day from Poff Elementary to their home school for afternoon Kindergarten following the morning care program. The cost for families would be between \$350-\$400 per month, plus a registration fee in the range of \$100-\$140. Dr. Loughead stressed that this is an independent child care program operated by the YMCA, not an educational Kindergarten equivalent operated by HTSD.

Mrs. Sanders said she has been in contact with a parent in the District who has been actively campaigning for full-day kindergarten in the District because she has a need for full-day services and also contends it is academically sound to have full-day services. Mrs. Sanders shared with her the idea of this program that was being considered for piloting next year and asked Dr. Loughead when the decision to pilot would be finalized. He said the approach and the goal is to have it brought to the School Board for consideration and approval in February. Mr. Shages said he has been on the School Board for 16 years and the topic of full-day kindergarten has come up every 2-3 years. He also highlighted that there are a number of quality day care programs in the Hampton area.

Food Service Questions - Mrs. Buben said there have been a few complaints about the quality of lunches. Some students got expired products - milk, juice, potato chips - and others have said the food itself in some of the prepared lunches is not of the same quality it used to be. Parents said they have reached out to the food service director and have not been satisfied with the responses they have received. Dr. Loughead said the food service contract is up this year and the District is soliciting bids from roughly nine food service providers. He also said Administration has discussed these concerns with the food service provider's regional management directly and let them know it was not acceptable to serve expired products or have them on the shelves.

Volunteer Clearances - Dr. Loughead said there have been some concerns and questions this year for how parents and other volunteers are required to obtain clearances. Information is available on the District website from the main landing page, under [District/Volunteer Clearances](#). Parents are asking for rules that are consistent District-wide rather than managed at the building level. By doing so, clearances would apply to all buildings. Mrs. Carr said they are losing a lot of volunteers and some are not joining until December because it takes them that long to get their clearances sorted. Dr. Cunningham said we will work on the clarity of the rules and making the information easier to find on the website. Mrs. Buben said it would be helpful to provide a packet to parents of incoming 6th graders because the requirements for clearances at the middle and high schools are different than they are at the elementary-school level.

Wyland Parking - Dr. Loughead said parking around Wyland Elementary is an ongoing issue which is now complicated by the fact that the township is taking a firmer stance on not permitting parking on the street in front of the school. Parents are being asked to park on Walter Road behind the school, but Mrs. Dougherty said the issue is there is no maintained path from that area up to the school, so she asked if it is going to become the expected alternative for parking, could there be a paved path that is maintained in inclement weather. Dr. Loughead said he would check into that option, as well as whether a shuttle bus to and from a nearby location to Wyland would work.

Safe2Say Update - Dr. Loughead provided an overview of the Safe2Say Something anonymous reporting system, which launched statewide last week. Districts already are receiving tips from the line; however, Hampton has not received anything at this time. Training will be provided to students in grades 6-12 only. Dr. Cunningham said the system is intended to serve as a statewide safety net and it is being operated through the PA Attorney General's office with the guidance of the Sandy Hook Promise organization. Each District is required to have a five-person team in place to receive the tips from the call center and determine the best way to handle them 24/7. Information on the program can be found on the District website [here](#).

Academics

2019-2020 School Calendar - The School Board approved the 2019-2020 District Calendar in January. The first day of school will be Thursday, August 22, 2019 and the last day for students is June 5, 2020. A copy of the calendar will be available on the District website [here](#).

Infinite Campus and Archived Student Data - Dr. McKaveney said there have been some questions about how to print old report cards from the system, and how to access other expired student data. Expired data has to be obtained from the guidance department at individual schools. Dr. McKaveney said the Infinite Campus application does not allow for the storing and retrieval of archived data at this time so parents who have a need to access expired information should still continue to contact the guidance offices for assistance.

Schools to Watch Award - Dr. Loughead announced the Middle School has been named a Schools to Watch for 2019 and that the District is so proud of this accomplishment. More information on the Schools to Watch program is available [here](#).

Instructional Technology Survey (BrightBytes) - Dr. McKaveney said a upcoming survey will be conducted for students and an additional one for parents. He shared a packet of the survey information with Key Communicators. He said a similar survey was conducted in 2014. Since the technology environment has changed since the last survey, this new survey will focus on the perception of how technology is used in the home. The survey should take 5 minutes or less to complete and is 100% anonymous. Dr. McKaveney said the survey will be sent out via Infinite Campus and asked the Key Communicators to send out a communication to the parents in their buildings, encouraging them to complete the survey.

School Delay Protocol - Dr Loughead reviewed the District's policy and protocol for delaying or cancelling school due to inclement weather. As the rule, wind chill factors of -10 result in a delay and -25 result in a cancellation. He said his bottom line when considering delays and cancellations is safety and if he does not think the students will be safe, he will delay or cancel. He noted the District's official policy is available on the District website [here](#).

High School Feasibility Study - A special School Board meeting will be held on January 28 for the purpose of hearing the cost proposal and final proposed plan for the High School feasibility study and the Fridley Field renovations. Following this meeting, the District will have to meet a July 1 deadline for possible reimbursement from the state via PlanCon. The PlanCon process has been under a moratorium for a few years and there is a chance the process may reopen on July 1 or the state legislature will completely retool the process. Dr. Loughead said it is important to note this is just a concept and not a guarantee that the High School/Fridley Field will be renovated. It is a planning phase to determine what is needed and if it is affordable.

Arts

Hues & Harmony Update – March 19 and 20 (5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hampton High School)

Upcoming District Events

- 1/28 Board Special Meeting– 7:00 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library
- 2/4 Board Work Session Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library
- 2/11 Board Voting Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library
- 2/18 Presidents' Day (Holiday) – School Closed
- 2/21 - Key Communicators Meeting New Date**
- 2/25 Board Special Meeting (if necessary) – 7:00 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library