

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

19 people in attendance

Call to Order/Welcome: Karen Anderegg

Approval of March Minutes

- The previous month's minutes can be found on the Horizon website. Motion to approve minutes by Mandy M, seconded by Jessi S, all in favor.

Financial Report: Leanne Wege

- The current budget can be found on the Horizon website.
- Highlights from the past month - we received \$60 from Liv's Drink Emporium Shares Day, also gave out \$300 towards class funds, spent \$123 on staff appreciation.
- Motion to approve minutes by Morgan A, seconded by Tara D, all in favor.

District Curriculum Development: Stephanie Leonard-Witte and Rick Mueller

- General Curriculum - we have a curriculum renewal and design plan process in the district, where every year we take a close look at one subject area for all the grades. For example, this fall English/Language Arts will be in year 1 of the curriculum renewal process. The district will gather facts about where we are and take a look at our present state of performance. In year 2, they will ask how they might improve our present state. Teams of teachers across the district will come together, look at the data, and help improve the curriculum and instructional materials. In year 3, the district will either adopt new materials or dig more deeply into the curriculums we have and provide more development opportunities for staff. They make sure to look at a subject curriculum across all grade levels to make sure that what students are learning in younger grades feeds into older grades.
- Our approach during the pandemic has been to push caring for kids before curriculum. You may hear about essential or priority standards. Out of all the state and national standards that exist among the content areas, our school district decides which of those we adhere to locally. Our teachers have gone through a process of identifying essential standards for the grade level. While not all standards may be met according to national standards, our teachers have been very thoughtful about development across a continuum and have identified the essential standards for that, and that's what they have been focused on this year.
- There can be this idea that during the pandemic and having multiple modes of doing school that there might be a learning loss. That assumes some things - might assume that all kids were doing well before the pandemic, but now students are struggling. The district does have assessments to monitor students - Fountas and Pinnell running records in literacy and Bridges pre- and post-assessments for numeracy. Our sense is that students are doing really well; the district has measures in place to assess that, and they are assessing that. Certainly there are students who are thriving in the pandemic, and students who are struggling. This is not unlike non-pandemic times where there is a continuum of learning. Teachers adapt to meet students where they are.
- Pending public health of course, the district is planning to return to a full 5-day-per-week schedule in the fall.

- Question - has the district noticed that students in general this year are behind in learning compared to students maybe two years ago? Yes, looking at F&P running records and Bridges post-assessments, there are more students who are at a lower level than in previous years. Our efforts to be prepared in the fall include making sure that our teachers have a thorough understanding of the learning curriculum. The district has also studied other major disruptions to education in history, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Schools responded with an array of solutions and research has shown which worked and which didn't. What worked was not an overview of everything that was missed, but rather continuing to provide access to on-level learning and addressing the very specific pieces that are missing.
- Teachers have also commented that some students are needing refreshers on the routines of doing school and socializing with other students, while their academics are going well. Social and Emotional Learning will need to be a big part of what we focus in on going forward.
- Teachers will also need to focus on stamina as the school day ramps up for kids to get in the habit of attending school full time.
- How much communication has there been between different districts in the area or state-wide? Every Friday, members of Stephanie's team meet with leaders across Dane County about instructional models, assessments, what is working well for others. They also discuss with other districts across the state; since Dane County was a little more conservative than other areas in Wisconsin, they would meet with districts that moved at a faster pace and get their lessons learned. There were big academic ideas and also logistical ideas. One of the benefits is that they have been able to do a lot of effective work across the country on zoom. There are conversations on-going area-wide about the interest for distance learning in the future. There will be some kind of distance learning offered next school year; what it will look like will depend on how many people are interested.
- How much similarity is there between schools in the district? Across the district, all teachers at the same grade are teaching the same curriculum with the same tools and same assessments and have the same understanding of the learning continuum. It is the responsibility of the principal and instructional coaches to make sure that teachers are teaching the same curriculum, meeting the same standards, and meeting all students' needs.
- Most of what we've talked about is very similar from elementary to secondary school. At 6th and 7th grade, we help kids learn to be more independent. In 6th grade, students will move into a house with a few core teachers. They will have a few required exploratories like art, music, technology. In 7th grade, students start having a few more choices with electives, with even greater choices in 8th grade. The district is working on revamping some of the technology classes to make sure there is a focus on robotics, artificial intelligence and coding as well as looking at other elective courses.

Dine-In Nights: Keri Jo Brown

- Little Caesar's Shares Night is coming up on Wednesday, April 21st. They are giving us 20% of all sales, so you don't even need to mention Horizon. They are planning on being extra busy that night, but are concerned they might be short-staffed for delivery. It will be faster to order in advance online for pickup, if that works for you.

Spring Drawing Winners: Keri Jo Brown

- We got a handful of students submitting drawings for the spring drawing contest. We will be posting the winners for that and giving out prizes through school.

Nominations and voting for board members (President, Secretary, and Treasurer)

- We have received nominations for Vice-President, Secretary, and Fund-Raising Coordinator board members. Reach out to Karen if you have any interest in being a part of the SCO board.
- Elections will happen at our board meeting in May.

Principal Remarks: Michelle Kelly

- We are starting with 4 day a week students starting on Thursday.
- Kids will still come into the building from 8:10 to 8:20 and head straight to their classroom. Breakfast will still be eaten in the classrooms. But kids will be able to eat lunch in the cafeteria! There will only be 4 kids per table and the tables will be spaced out. Kindergarten and 5th grade practiced eating lunch in the cafeteria Friday and today, and it's going to work.
- There will be a few slight changes in the schedules, mostly around lunch times.
- A lot of things are very similar. Kids will still wear masks and will get mask breaks throughout the day.
- Teachers are going to reteach classroom, hallway, cafeteria, playground behaviors.
- Chromebooks and iPads do need to be brought home every night, that is a district decision so that students will have technology available in case there is a last minute change in learning. Please make sure that your students are using their devices only for learning; please delete any fun apps that may have been added to ipads.
- For new students who are starting in person on Thursday, there will be extra staff on hand in the morning to make sure students can get all their stuff and know where to go.
- As far as extra masks, most students keep their extra masks in their backpack and switch them during the day as needed.
- About 84% of students will be attending school in person starting on Thursday.
- What happens with cold lunch boxes? They will be put in the bucket after lunch like normal, but this year students won't be able to dig through the bucket to get their lunch back. Helpers will be laying out the cold lunches before lunch.
- The library will be open starting April 19th for students to check out books. Each class will come one day per week and will be allowed to choose their own books.
- Students can choose either hot lunch or cold lunch each day; they can change their mind day to day.
- Michelle will send out some information for 5th grade families about getting to know Prairie View after following up with Prairie View leadership. There might be a video welcoming students to middle school.

School Board Remarks: Caren Diedrich

- Caren did not attend the meeting.

Open Discussion/Questions

- We will be doing 5th grade recognition this year. It will be done by class. Each 5th grader will be able to bring 2 people to their half hour event. Mandy M has been working on coordinating that. There will be some kind of individual treat. There might be money in the budget for the 5th graders to vote on a gift to give the school. Can Mandy get a count on the number of 5th graders from Michelle? There will be a way for families to participate virtually.

- Will there be an outside socially distanced June SCO meeting? We are planning to discuss that at our May meeting to see what people are interested in doing.
- There was a suggestion that people still be able to join the SCO meeting via zoom in the future.
- Watch for a Signup Genius for staff appreciation week coming up this month.

The next SCO meeting is Tuesday, May 11th at 6pm via zoom; Michelle will send the link in advance.

Meeting adjournment at 7:30pm– Motioned by Kristen B, seconded by Tara D, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Marcie Johnson, Horizon SCO Secretary

Please contact the SCO by emailing any of the following:

Karen Anderegg	president@horizonsco.org
Heather Peschl	vicepresident@horizonsco.org
Marcie Johnson	secretary@horizonsco.org
Leanne Wege	treasurer@horizonsco.org
Keri Jo Brown	fundraiser@horizonsco.org

To stay up to date on our events, like us on Facebook! Search for Horizon SCO