Date 1/13/2020  Meeting called to order by Sara Gilloth

In Attendance

Kate Broyles  Britni Dawson-Giles  Sara Miller
Sharon Burger  Sara Gilloth  Aimee Pless
Sarah Chase  Kim Halingstad  Tricia Samuelson
Steve Cox  Dan Keane  Stewart Sapien

Approval of Minutes

The November minutes were posted on the school website and distributed to staff via e-mail. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes without revision.

Principal’s Report

Kim Halingstad gave the principal’s report.

2020-2021 Enrollment and Staffing

The projected enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is 555 students, not including open enrollment. A smaller incoming sixth grade class is expected. Staffing is expected to remain stable; more language arts and math course sections or a world language/cultures position are being considered.

Review of Key Goals for the 2019-2020 School Year

Brief updates were provided on the school’s work in the three areas of focus for this year:

• Responsive Instruction – each department continues to work on aligning with the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP);
• School Culture – we have been implementing using restorative processes focusing on how to repair relationships after conflict, reached 90% of our goal for students to be able to identify at least one trusted adult to talk to if something comes up, Coffee with Counselors has had good attendance, hoping to improve as the program gets more traction, and possibly hosting a screening of the documentary Screenagers;
• Instructional Technology – we plan to replace 99 Chromebooks approaching end-of-life to support upcoming testing and provide improved access for classroom use through the end of the school year.

The annual Make Your Voice Heard survey is open today through February 7. Aggregated data from the results is provided to school administration to help maintain the positive aspects of our schools and to address individual student needs and concerns. General feedback from the community and school has been positive this year.
Winter MAP testing results

The overall data from the winter Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing looks good and shows improvement in student growth from the fall tests. Reading results are stronger than math, with students showing at least a year’s growth in a year’s time in reading. In subgroups, gifted and talented students’ results continue to be above target. Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are not showing growth at the same rate as other students, so we will continue to examine possible causes for that trend.

Budget Feedback

The top three priorities for school-based budgeting identified by the School Accountability Committee have been submitted to the district: additional electives (languages in particular), additional teachers, and more resources/support for mental health.

New Business

Parent Teacher Conferences

Feedback from families on the conference format used this year was shared to the meeting:

- The fall conferences feel like a getting to know the teacher, the winter conferences are more substantive.
- The 10-minute windows feel too brief and difficult to plan around delays with other conferences.
- Three things appreciated by families:
  - Teachers including students in goal setting documents for the year.
  - The winter conferences split between an invitation and appointments.
  - A questionnaire sent to families to provide a classroom teacher with information they want to share about their student.

Community Garden Report

The proposal to use the abandoned tennis courts for a community garden is among 29 finalists for Innovation Acceleration Fund grants from the district; voting is open January 11-17 to students and staff. We will learn the results on February 14. Next steps for the project include fundraising, continued coordination with community partners (Denver Urban Gardens and Evergreen’s Alliance for Sustainability), and continuing to explore options for a water source.
Old Business

A discussion on schoolwide assembly content was tabled from the November meeting. In the future, whenever a schoolwide assembly is scheduled, the School Accountability Committee will be consulted. (It was not clear whether the committee will be given an opportunity to screen the planned presentation for content.) No additional schoolwide assemblies are planned for this year.

Open Forum

There is one part-time kitchen position open at the school. To learn more about the positions or to apply, please go to the district’s Careers page and search for “West Jefferson Middle.”

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Next Meeting

Date: 2/10/2020
Time: 2:35
Location: WJMS Library