



GLENBROOK
NORTH
PARENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Glenbrook North Parents' Association

Meeting Minutes: September 6, 2017

Attendees: Greta Satek, Mindi Rench, Decima Panitch, Kim Isele, Donna & Ralph Fujiwora, Dafar Zaghal, Devon Roane, Carol Currie, Shital Pandet, Debbie Jutzi, Meghan Rosenfeld, Leslie Reis, Traci parks, Kris Izenstark, Stacy Seiden, Elisa & David Mitchell, Diufang Xiao, Alison Whitlock, Pamela Marlantis, Okhee Choi

I. Call to Order / Welcome

A. Chairperson Greta Satek called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

II. Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Riggle, Superintendent

A. Dr. Riggle shared some of his background

B. Report

1. Illinois Legislature just passed SB1947 which will change how schools are funded by the State of Illinois. For local school districts, not much will change, because schools will not get receive less than they got last year.
2. Only 2.5 - 3% of District 225's revenue comes from the State of Illinois. 94% locally funded through property taxes. The Board also tries to invest wisely.
3. 2,025 students this year at GBN
4. We are continuing to grow. We are at our highest population ever as a district. 5,160 students in the district.
5. South is at 3,144 and is expected to peak at just under 4,000 in the next three or four years.
6. Decisions about the district are based on census data.
7. We're spending more money right now because we have more students. That is expected to decline by 2021. The district is expecting to be debt free by 2027.
8. The new tax bill could have effects.
 - a) People could call for a referendum to reduce the district spending by 10%. That would be catastrophic for the district.
 - b) Unfunded mandates
 - (1) Driver's Ed
 - (2) Changes to PE for kids who are in athletics and extra-curriculars
9. Initiatives for this Year
 - a) Collective Bargaining
 - (1) three unions; the teacher's union is on its last year of the current contract
 - (a) looking at language and compensation

- (b) health coverage is a major cost
 - (c) goal is to sustain what we have (keeping a good teaching staff) but being fiscally responsible
- b) Student Wellness
- (1) Shift in grading in terms of weighting on report cards.
 - (a) Grades will now be 80% coursework and 20% final exams. It will no longer be 1st nine weeks = 40%, 2nd nine weeks = 40% and final exam = 20%. This shift was made in order to reduce stress on both students and teachers.
 - (b) Teachers are also looking at best practices in instruction and grading.
 - (2) School Calendar
 - (a) High schools are looking at and discussing a shift to starting earlier in August in order to have final exams before winter break. The district surveyed the community last year on this issue, but did not get much response.
 - (b) We're sticking with the traditional calendar for 2018-2019.
 - (c) If the calendar does eventually change, the district will also work with the feeder districts.
 - (3) School start time
 - (a) The new bus arrangement may make it possible for the school start time to shift to 8:00 A.M. from 7:40 A.M.
 - (b) With taking 10 minutes out of the school day, you could see a school day of 8:00 A.M. - 3:05 P.M. without a loss of instructional time.
 - (4) Late Arrivals
 - (a) The district is looking at possibly increasing the number of late arrival days but making them 1.5 hours long.
 - (5) PowerSchool notifications
 - (a) Students and parents were getting too many notifications from PowerSchool about grade changes. This was detrimental to student wellness. The district was told these notifications could be turned off, but then it turned out this was not possible. PowerSchool is going to work with the district to work on changes to the app that will benefit student wellness.
- c) Dr. Riggle then took questions from the audience. (I tried to capture these as best I could, but I was having trouble hearing some of the questions)
- (1) One parent asked about starting school after Labor Day. Dr. Riggle explained what happens when we go too late in June; kids are put at a disadvantage for camp experiences and employment. CPS is one of the only school districts that starts after Labor Day.
 - (2) Another parent asked about timing for changing the schedule. If it doesn't change, it would be for the 2019-2020 school year. The calendar is always approved two years out.
 - (3) There was another question about what happens with college admissions if the calendar changes.
 - (4) A parent asked about the study of homework that the district conducted over the past few years. Dr. Riggle explained that last year the district did quite a bit of professional development with the faculty about the purpose of homework. This year there will be a continued discussion of data that is collected from teachers and students in order to refine and improve the homework. They're going to look at profiles of students: what does it look like for an honors student; what does it look like for a regular-track student; what

does it look like for struggling students? This needs to be continually examined, yet still provide teachers autonomy.

- (5) Another question was asked about timelines for feedback from teachers. Dr. Riggle encouraged the parent to first speak with the teacher and then call the instructional supervisor for the department about specific guidelines if the parent is dissatisfied with turn-around times for grading assignments.
- (6) Another parent asked about test scores. Dr. Riggle shared that the report he recently received about ACT scores showed the district scores were as high as they've ever been.
- (7) There was another question about how success is measured. This is a question with many answers and will be different for each family. Dr. Riggle explained that more and more he feels happiness is part of that equation.
- (8) There was a question about the 10% funding reduction - whether or not it has anything to do with funding the teacher's pension. Dr. Riggle feels that it's more about freezing property taxes. For districts such as ours, we've had a limit on our revenues that is tied to the CPI and the CPI increases have been very low for several years. A property tax freeze would present an even bigger challenge.
- (9) A parent asked if we track college graduation rates. We do. It's a program through the federal government. A large percentage of district 225 graduates graduate on time.
- (10) A parent asked why our standardized test scores are so much higher than the rest of the state. Dr. Riggle explained that there is a high correlation between socio-economic status and scores on national standardized tests. We also have really great teachers.

III. School Report: Dr. John Finan, Principal of GBN (absent)

IV. New Business (none)

V. Business Meeting:

A. Executive Board Reports

1. Chairperson: Greta Satek
2. Membership: Audra Casey, Katie Trout (Carol Currie filled us in)
 - a) Membership is up. The online book sale helped us! (Membership is up for all organizations, actually).
3. Communications: Carol Currie
 - a) No report.
4. Secretary: Mindi Rensch
 - a) The minutes are on the website. Carol moves to approve.
 - b) Laurie Shultz seconded.
 - c) A vote was taken and minutes from June 2017 were approved unanimously
5. Treasurer Susie D'Orazi
 - a) We have \$18,712.71 in the account.
6. P.A. Committees
 - a) Distinguished Teacher Alison Whitlock and Susan Schueler
 - (1) We're going to do it
 - b) Spartan Spirit Award Traci Parks and Chris Lay
 - (1) The Spartan Spirit Award honors EJ Duffy. It's a scholarship-type award that goes to a student. Teachers nominate students who represent the spirit of EJ Duffy (unsung heroes

of the school). The committee reads through the teachers' comments and committee members vote on a winner based on the rubric.

c) Dr. Paul Pryma Award for Courageous Kindness

- (1) This award was first awarded last year. It was created to honor Dr. Pryma. It recognizes a student who goes above and beyond to be helpful to other students and be an uplifting personality. The administration picked the winner of this award and approval was given by the PA President and one other officer.

d) Grad Night Debbie Jutzi

- (1) Grad Night is June 3, 2018. It is for ALL of the GBN graduates. It's a lock in from 11:00 P.M. - 5:00 A.M. (Sunday night to Monday morning).
- (2) We need over 150 volunteers that weekend.
- (3) The steering committee is 55 parents (all grades)
- (4) If you would like to help, sign up at the grad night website www.gbngradnight.com
- (5) Steering committee meetings are always the week after the Parent Association meeting at 7:30 P.M.

e) Staff Appreciation Margaret Grouzard

- (1) Margaret is looking for people to help with staff appreciation. Email Greta.

7. GBN Standing Committees:

a) All School Workshops: Decima Panitch

- (1) All school workshops are held twice a year during the school day for the students.

b) Curriculum: Carol Currie

- (1) Nothing yet

c) Dean's Advisory: Traci Parks

- (1) Nothing to report.
- (2) We need a new person. Devon Roane and Deborah Phadnis said they can do it.

d) Glenbrook Foundation: Kristine Schwandner

- (1) North and South combined. They raise money and give grants to teachers as well as funding for Chromebooks for less-advantaged students.

e) Members at Large

- (1) District 27: Lorna Cohen
- (2) District 28: Susan Schueler and Carol Currie
- (3) District 30: Sarah Sanford
 - (a) The new Maple will open in 2020.
- (4) District 31: Leslie Resis

VI. Adjournment:

- A. Carol moves we adjourn at 8:30 P.M. Susie D'Orazi seconded. Voted and approved to adjourn.

Next meeting will be October 4, 2017, in the library. Dr. Boyle will fill us in on college stuff.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindi Rench

Parents' Association Secretary