LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notes on Community Linkage/Minutes of Board Workshop

Tuesday, October 8, 2013
7:00 PM

HS Library

Present: Mark Mansell, Cris Yaw, Todd Jones, Bob Taylor and Wendy Chord
Notes & Minutes taken by: Laurie Kansanback
Administrators: Carol Patton and Dave Holmes
Staff: Warren Westerberg, Anita Calnan, Mary Lynn Henderson, Greg Hall, Melissa Flatt and Joni Hancock
Guests: 15 or so community members

Mrs. Yaw opened the Community Linkage with the flag salute at 7 PM. She then opened the meeting up to comments from the floor. A woman spoke about the math program and Common Core. She made some scary allegations about what the government is trying to do. Mrs. Yaw and Dr. Mansell both shared ways in which we are different than a lot of places and won't allow the government to do the things she is worried about.

Mrs. Yaw then asked for Community input on the Regularly Scheduled Late Student Arrival having been moved to Wednesday. Staff responded that it is a great thing and "teachers love it". Mr. Jones shared that every community member he has talked to (including his own wife) hate it. Staff again assured everyone it is great.

Mr. Soske shared that the Home School Academy is going great.

A staff member complained about the class sizes in the middle school and the fact that FCRC has been a classroom. Dr. Mansell explained about the "bubble" class going through the middle school and the more reasonable class sizes coming behind it.

A different staff member began to complain about the technology in the school and that the 12 computers in the library "never work". She went on to say how much of her time and energy is taken up and expressed how frustrating and embarrassing that is. Another staff member gave a "blow-by-blow" account of how difficult a time she has making even one entry for her job because of the technology shortfall.

Mrs. Yaw then attempted to bring the topic back to those community issues the Board had been hearing about by asking after the parking issues. Again, a staff member (likely unaware of the parking issues Mrs. Yaw referred to) responded that all parking is fine and wonderful.

Dr. Mansell shared that our busses should be off-site by January and that will free up parking at the K-8. He also shared possible new plans for traffic revisions once the busses move.

A community member shared how pleased she has been by the responsiveness of our staff and administrators to problems or concerns she may have. Also how positive having a nurse on duty 3 days per week (up from 2 days per week) is.

Another community member brought up home school academy and how responsive Mrs. Poffenroth and Mr. Holmes have been. They feel like Mrs. Poffenroth is looking at student mastery – not just passing the test.

A staff person went back to technology and how obsolete many computers in the district are. Another staff person complained that it has been months that she has been trying to get a simple cord and she wants to know how things are prioritized in the tech department.

A community member asked if it was OK to ask a question or if this time was just for staff to "gripe".

Staff members then said they wanted everyone to know we have an awesome tech staff. A different staff person then stated that the highly capable program was a lot of talk but not a lot of action.

Community meeting ended at 8 pm.

The workshop convened at 8:10 pm.

1. Debrief of linkage meeting: The Board expressed concerns that community members were not able to speak because of staff "hi-jacking" the meeting for staff concerns. A community member pointed out that some of the staff present are also community members. The Board responded that they did not have community concerns but instead expressed staff concerns. Questions were asked regarding chain of command and protocols for dealing with staff concerns (not to mention the staff linkage held each year). Dr. Mansell was instructed to look into this matter.

As this was a workshop of the board, no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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Member	Member
_____	_____
Member	Member
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Member	Board Secretary