# LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101
# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of Board Workshop/Student Linkage Meeting

Tuesday, February 19, 2013
8:15 am – 1:00 pm

Various Locations Throughout the District

Present: Mark Mansell, John Parsons, Bob Taylor, Cris Yaw, Todd Jones and Wendy Chord
Minutes taken by: Laurie Kansanback
Administrators: Dave Holmes

The linkage meeting with students began at the elementary school. The Board met with students in the K-8 library in two separate groups. The first group consisted of K-2nd grade students. The second group consisted of 3rd-5th grade students. The Board learned the following:

- K-2 students like "choice" time, recess, lunch and math that uses manipulatives
- K-2 students do not like regular math and fat-free milk
- K-2 students would like more drink choices (apple juice, etc.) at lunch
- K-2 students wanted to know if the Board reads everyday. (They do, by the way.)

- 3-5 students Like Band, Choir, the Rock Walls, the recent addition of windows in the portable doors and the Water Dispenser recently located in the K-8 cafeteria
- 3-5 students didn't have specifics they didn't like, but DID have a number of things they would like to see improved. Those things are as follows:
- Many felt the general maintenance of the playground/recess equipment (balls, jump-ropes, track, etc.) needs improvement.
- Would like more PE (instead of every other Friday)
- Would like to have a place inside on rainy days instead of being crammed into the playshed
- Would like to see more subjects available on "Success Maker"
- Need more books in classrooms
- Would like enough iPads to each have one

The elementary students stated (when asked about how safe they feel) that mostly they feel safe because there has never been a reason not to. Some feel more work needs to be done teaching respect for others and good sportsmanship. One child indicated a worry about someone coming up from the wetlands and getting over or under the fence to cause trouble at school.

These students also showed great enthusiasm for "Math is Cool" and for using iPads in their classrooms.

The Board then moved to the middle school. These students (6th, 7th and 8th graders from the leadership class) shared the following:

- Several students had concerns about the lack of consistency in grading across the middle school. They offered various examples of systems teachers are using that range from almost impossible to score well to everybody gets an "A".
- Large majority expressed concerns and dis-satisfaction with how long certain teachers take to grade/return/post to Skyward work they turn in. Several shared "horror stories" of lost work, work taking weeks or months to be grades, etc.
- Some feel the middle school needs a full time counselor.
- Many positive comments about the online health class that was offered over the summer.
- Suggestions that the elementary school add posters of anti-bullying messages and more work be done regarding verbal bullying and respect.
- Concerns about work needing to be more challenging
- They want help determining how to improve skills – not just get a bunch of positive comments.
- iPad usage is much improved over the last week but kids don't always use them wisely.

The last stop of the day was the high school. The Board met in the HS Library with a cross section of students representing all grades and interests. Students presented the following ideas, concerns, opinions, etc.

- A request to go to an "Open Forum" on school clubs as current policy of "Closed Forum" which requires clubs to tie to the curriculum is too restrictive. Case in point is the desire to have a Chess Club. Many students are currently involved in playing chess at lunch and after school but they need a funding source as Mr. "D" (Counselor, Timm DiStefano) is paying out of his own pocket for expenses. It is felt that "Open Forum" with clubs builds community w/non-athletes. Also, a student wants a photography club.
- One student stated that she loves the teachers here – we are super blessed to have such great ones, especially in the math department.
- History classes need to be "bumped up" to meet the level of need. Women's Studies is a great example of what level of impact they want to see from history classes.
- Teachers need to be held to a standard for getting grades on Skyward. It is all over the place now. They feel grades should be posted within 2 – 5 days after being turned in.
- Home Economics is missed.
- Not as many CTE choices as previously.
- The career center is AWESOME this year! They are REALLY helpful and proactive with every student. If you don't go in there they come to you.
- Minor comments about Navigation, pathways and Phoenix program.

The Board returned to the district office for lunch, a debrief and a workshop. There was a lot of discussion about what was heard regarding clubs. It is the general consensus of the Board that Chess is an activity (like Knowledge Bowl) and instructed Dr. Mansell to pursue adding it as such and as appropriate. The Board is not interested in changing the club format policy at this time. Overall, the Board feels good about what they heard from students and asked Dr. Mansell to look into a couple of areas of concern.

They discussed re-running the Capital Levy in April. Dr. Mansell will survey stakeholders and this will be decided at the regular February business meeting.

They Board also discussed the KWRL Cooperative Agreement.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

| | |
|---|---|
| _____ | _____ |
| Member | Member |
| _ | |
| _____ | _____ |
| Member | Member |
| _ | |
| _____ | _____ |
| Member | Board Secretary |