LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of Board Workshop/Student Linkage Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
9:00 am – 2:00 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 high school. The Board started off asking if students felt they are being prepared for the future, what is happening to prepare them and does staff need to look at anything differently?

Comments were as follows:

- Navigation time is not very useful
- Would like to learn more about finances student loans during school day
- Navigation is the same thing every year
- More focus on careers is needed
- Navigation would be more beneficial if it were more personalized
- Navigation is a waste of time but doesn't have any ideas for how to change that
- Would like lessons on how to take a test like the SAT/ACT, etc.
- Feels prepared academically
- Would like cooking and sewing classes back
- Feels the majority of students are being prepared – especially in math

Mr. Taylor shared that he has seen a huge shift in focus of school – it is no longer the old way. Does that seem true to students?

- Seen a change in teaching style of a lot of teachers – not so much read the book and answer the questions but more about relevance
- Career center has trouble getting the word out on college visits – could be in taken care of in navigation
- Could add military information and FAFSA/Scholarship info to navigation
- Make navigation one hour once per month – less than that is waste of time
- Doesn't appear to be much collaboration between the grade levels for navigation
- Too many worksheets
- No time given in school to research after career tests are taken
- Navigation should be a stepping stool

Dr. Mansell asked if there was a student council for navigation that could talk with navigation captains. Answer is no. Suggestion to look into that.

Dr. Mansell asked if there were opportunities for job shadowing. Suggests to ask at career fair about mentorships.

Board asked questions about the graduation requirements and the pathways. Also, questions about technology in the high school. Comments were as follows:

- Graduation requirements are good and the pathways are great and very helpful
- (NOTE: Appears to be much more familiarity this year on these subjects than last)
- Love that the library has so much technology available
- Learning tech has been really helpful – second tier internet encourages students to do their work
- Loves google docs – especially for group work. No need for a flash drive. Love to use iPods in free work time.

General comments:

- Bring Home Ec classes back. Don't know how to do laundry, cook, sew on a button.
- Music additions are great! (History of Rock-n-Roll, Media)

Board asked if students feel safe here? Answer: Yes. Do you know how to keep others safe? Answer: No.

What about teenage suicide?

- The Phoenix program is a big help on this front
- Relationships with teachers
- Very safe environment
- More like a family than a school
- Feels really good here – no fear of being harassed

Can you take what you've learned outside of here? Answer: Yes.

Board then went to the elementary school where they met with students K-5.

Questions in general and questions from the board about favorite subjects, concerns, who is responsible for their learning, etc. Comments are as follows:

- Why are we meeting in the library?
- Favorite classes are reading, math, science, social studies, recess and PE
- Likes WatchDogs, climbing Wall & Sandbox
- Learning about being safe and not hurting others
- Need more choices for lunch
- Likes Team Teaching
- Can learn more than I know now
- 1st grader said he is responsible for his learning – because he is the only one who knows if he is learning
- Collaboration means you can help each other
- Not everybody follows rules
- 1st grader thinks kindy should only go every other day or little kids get too tired
- Likes algorithims
- Science Olympiads was very fun. Thinks future generations would enjoy.
- Likes team teaching but switching is a hassle

- Switching teachers is kind of stressful but he does get to meet knew people
- Likes having choices
- Likes the library and the teachers
- Feels safe
- Fund raisers need to be different than cookie dough
- Likes how our community gets together
- Wants a bigger drink selection at cafeteria

The Board moved last to the middle school. Mr. Cooke did a nice introduction of the Board and cautioned students to be advocates for their own learning and to be honest in their answers/concerns:

The Board asked for students to share what they like and what they think could be improved about their school. Comments are:

- Band program is great
- Basic knowledge for msp is there
- Likes advanced math – needs more challenge in other classes
- More world problems
- Need more electives
- More for kinesthetic learners
- Too follow the book rather than let them discover on their own in science
- Religion exposure needed
- Too much group work
- Health is the same stuff over and over in each grade
- Need more advisory time for a social end
- World Cultures
- Too many worksheets
- Portfolios for student led conferences – too many teachers don't know what to do
- Whole class collaboration is where the most learning occurs
- Educational leadership needs more time
- Need more hands on for math
- Stations works well
- Not fair grading on group work
- Suggestion for ASK type thing for ED leadership to continue
- Pathways……HUH?
- Need more help about high school and college
- Don't feel prepared to go to high school (what to expect)
- Want more info on futures
- Planners are under utilized
- Students don't feel safe asking teachers questions because they don't know how teachers might respond
- Counselor is only here part-time
- Complaints about female science teacher
- Art class is too unstructured
- Wants more performance opportunity for band
- Technology – not enough in school
- Most have internet at home
- Some groups have over-lapping projects – poor teacher planning

- Longer classes for subjects like science
- Outside activities should be told about in school
- Students should be allowed to use their own tech devices in school – better than school computers

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 navigation. It is the general consensus that we have reached a tipping point and things need to change around this program. There was some discussion about how to empower students and really incorporate self-reflection into the portfolio process and student led conferences. We need to think about how to minimize fear and anxiety for our students about the next step and the unknown.

The Board expressed concern about the "cluelessness" of middle school students about the pathways. Dr. Mansell assured the board he would be addressing this issue immediately.

The Board asked for name tags on the students next year. Please.

Dr. Mansell asked to talk about the questions Mr. Jones had around EL-15. After discussing the changes to the procedure governing curriculum material adoption the Board did not feel EL-15 needed any changes.

Mrs. Yaw asked to have staff appreciation added to the next agenda for discussion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

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Member	Board Secretary