



LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD/STUDENT LINKAGE MEETING

Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2020
8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Todd Jones, Wendy Chord, Cris Yaw, Eric Lindberg, Win Muffett

Board Members Absent:

Superintendent: Dave Holmes

Administrators and Staff: Peter Rosenkranz, Carol Patton, Scott Lincoln, Mike Nolan, Kurt Gray, Greg Hall

Minutes taken by: Tammy Lichliter

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m., in the K-8 Library.

The board met first with the middle school "Blue Crew." This group consists of one representative from each home room at the middle school. Mr. Jones asked the students if they knew what the school board does. He explained to them that the board sets policy and follows up with the building administrators to make sure that policy is followed. He told the students that the board are elected officials that work for them and that they can email them any time with questions or concerns.

Students brought ideas about what is going well and what the district could do better. The first comment from a student was that he likes all of the things that you can do during lunch break. Students can stay in the cafeteria, go to the field or gym to play sports or go to the library. Another area that students think is going well is the choices of electives at the middle school, specifically STEM, art, band, choir and exploratory.

The concerns brought up were: there are only 2 microwaves in the lunch room. Could they possibly have more added? Another student asked about adding an after school club that would encompass many different groups of students, possibly called the "All Fiction Club." The student brought up that some students are bullied for having different interests and this would be a safe place for them to enjoy their interests, like Pokemon or Beyblade, without being judged by others.

Mr. Jones asked some questions about the bullying and he explained that sometimes this doesn't mean that this is bullying behavior, but a difference of opinion. He let students know that they can tell others to stop bullying when they see it. If they feel uncomfortable telling the student directly, they should tell an adult. Mr. Jones then explained to the student that clubs are great and added what he should do to get the club going. He asked the student to let him know if his idea doesn't go anywhere. Mrs. Chord added that the school's clubs all start from ideas that students have had and many of them are still very popular.

The next issue that was brought up was the hat policy. Students believe that they should be able to wear hats in the building, but not hoods as hoods may hide ear buds or other things. They added that they should not have to pay to wear a hat on designated hat days.

Cafeteria issues were then brought up by students. The first was the portion sizes in the cafeteria. Portion sizes should be larger as some students are still hungry when they finish their lunches. Another student would like lunch periods to be longer. Mr. Jones explained that by state law, a certain number of hours in the classroom are required per year. To extend the lunch period, there would be a need to increase the amount of classroom time per day or add days to the end of the school year. Students did not like that idea. One last comment by a student was that they would like to start the school day later so that they could get more sleep. This issue may be looked at when the new middle school opens because of the need for bus schedule changes. The board thanked the middle school students for their time and ideas.

The board then split into groups and visited elementary school classrooms. The classrooms visited were:

Cris Yaw – C. Johnson’s kindergarten class and T. Wanke’s 3rd grade class

Eric Lindberg and Win Muffett – M. Gray’s 1st grade class and B. Lepak’s 4th grade class

Wendy Chord and Todd Jones – M. Bright’s 2nd grade class and K. Denney’s 5th grade class

The board then met in the HS library with students from both the leadership and WAC groups. Mr. Jones started by explaining to the students what the board does. Students were then asked what they thought was going well or could be improved.

One student said that drama has been going well for the past 2 years and she wants people to keep supporting it. Another student said that the athletic director is doing a great job communicating with athletes.

For things that the district could work on, one student asked if there could be more foreign languages offered as electives for not only HS, but also in MS? She suggested American sign language or French as possibilities.

Students also brought up the following:

would like to see a “key club” or volunteer club (like the Leos).

Another student would like to have a debate club. The student was informed that a debate club was approved by ASB. To get the club going, student interest needs to be generated and an advisor needs to be found. Mr. Muffett informed the students that the board encourages student groups as much as possible. He added that students feel empowered when they get involved and they can improve the overall culture of the school. When kids work together on a common interest, it is a good thing.

Another student brought up that a change in student behavior is being noticed. Bad language and disrespect seems to be getting worse. She asked if a class could be added that just focuses on these issues instead of the leadership class only working on it once a month? It would be good to keep what La Center is known for.

Another concern by students is the requirement to get 2 art credits. One student mentioned that she is struggling to get in all of the requirements as it is. The board informed students that they should be seeking out their counselor to talk about credit requirements. There are different pathways to graduation and not all of the graduation requirements are set in stone depending upon those pathways.

Students are not expected to figure out all of this on their own, the counselors are there to help. The board thanked the students for their time and ideas and then met in the HS conference room to talk about the morning

Mrs. Chord said that these meetings should have something come out of them and the board agreed. The board suggested that instead of adding a new class to help with the student language and behavior, the leadership class should be more involved in the school climate. It may be time for leadership to get an overhaul. Mr. Holmes said that when he was principal, he would stop in and challenge the kids to take ownership in their school, and he believes the leadership kids are the right kids to take ownership of the school climate. They just need to be given the skillset to do this. They need to be equipped with the ability to stand up and not worry about the fallout. Mr. Muffett added that kids that compete in athletics already have this ability as they know they could lose, but they compete anyway. Leaders know how to take a loss. The leadership curriculum needs work. The high school environment is still good, but it could be better. The students felt the need to bring it up, so it is an issue that needs to be resolved.

The board asked about the vaping as this was a huge issue a year ago. The board was informed that vaping is basically a non-issue this year. With the change in age to purchase nicotine, the news and society, it has basically resolved on its own. Mr. Muffett added that Mr. Gray and Ms. Patton should be recognized for this.

The board then noted that the high school needs to raise awareness to all students that they can go to their school counselors when they have questions or need help with graduation requirements. Students (and parents) should not feel like they have to do it all on their own. They need to be informed of who to go to when they have questions. Mr. Rosenkranz added that this may be an item that could be added to the LC Achieves newsletter.

Mr. Jones asked about the status of the electronic reader board. The PO has been delivered for the K-8 campus reader board. The district is now just waiting on delivery and setup. The HS reader board is a little more complicated and is pending help with a solar power project as the area that the reader board is planned for only has electricity from dusk to dawn.

The board was then briefed that the auditor is in district and will be conducting an audit over the next 2 weeks. Cash auditing is the biggest issue. The district has tried to go cashless in the buildings with some success. There will be a big push this spring to get this fully implemented with the exception of ASB gate transactions. This will save a lot of manpower and decrease the risk of audit findings.

The new MS is just waiting on a couple of minor things from the city for the issuance of the building permit.

Finally, the board discussed the overall flow of the linkages this year. The board liked the ES linkage this year. It was good to see the classrooms and interact with the students in their environment. They suggested 10 minutes in each classroom was sufficient, however there could be less time in K-1 and a bit more in 4-5 classrooms. The middle school went just like it does every year. Could the MS do something like the ES did this year? The high school group was a good group overall this year. The board likes this type of forum for the older students.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Board Secretary

Board Member

Board Member

Board Chair

Board Member

Board Member