



Parent District Council (PDC) Briefs — February 5, 2015

WELCOME

Communications Director Susan Dielmann welcomed the PDC representatives. Superintendent Dr. Donna Jahnke came later to the meeting. Dr. Laura Brock, Old Bonhomme Counselor Hayley Arnold, and district Communications Specialist Laura Shea were also present.

ELEMENTARY REPORT CARDS – DR. LAURA BROCK

Dr. Brock updated the group on the revisions currently underway to K-4 report cards. The updated, standards-based grading is an effort to bring a higher level consistency to reporting. Elementary K-4 students will receive report cards at the end of every quarter and these will be used in place of progress reports. More details and specifics will be shared with parents by the end of the year; the new cards will be introduced in the 2015-2016 school year; and feedback will be sought as the year progresses. Reps requested space for comments be considered on the new form.

ROLE OF THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR – HAYLEY ARNOLD

In conjunction with National School Counseling Week, counselor Hayley Arnold gave a presentation on the role of the guidance counselor in schools. The presentation was filmed by Laura Shea.

- Guidance counselors have a role in the curriculum of the district and offer classroom lessons on various subjects that assist in academic, career and personal social development.
- Individual planning is another function of school counselors and the emphasis is different at each level. At the elementary level, the emphasis in planning is on “awareness” of possible interests, transitions and test appraisal; at the middle school level, it is “exploring” students’ abilities and possible careers; and at the high school level it is “planning” for career development and future academics.
- Counselors also offer responsive services, such as individual counseling, small groups, consultation and referral for services.
- In their “system support” role, counselors offer program management, fair share responsibilities, professional development, staff-community relations, committee participation, community outreach, and research and development.

DISTRICT UPDATES – DR. DONNA JAHNKE

Dr. Jahnke provided information to the group on the following topics.

- **Board Election.** Dr. Jahnke announced the five candidates who have filed for positions on the Board of Education. In order of filing, the candidates are: Sheldon Johnson, Sheri Glantz, Nancy Leve Goldstein, Donald W. Buck, II, and Kisha Lee. A Meet the Candidates Night will be held on March 24, and the election will be April 7, 2015.
- **Facilities Master Plan Update.** Dr. Jahnke said that work continues on Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan – renovation of the High School.

- **Spring Events.** Dr. Jahnke encouraged reps to attend the many spring events in their schools as well as at other buildings.

BUILDING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

The following building announcements and best practices were shared:

- **Finance/Facilities Board Advisory Committees:** Kelly Waller reported that the two committees have been meeting on the high school renovation. The architects hired for the process are saying much the same things as the architects used in the previous Feasibility Study. It has been a thorough process for this huge undertaking, and when the final recommendation is made, it will have been thoroughly vetted.
- **REED:** Reed's online auction begins on February 23 and ends March 1. Trivia Night is February 7.
- **FIFTH GRADE CENTER:** February 28 is the School of Rock Boogie Party. The Parent Association bought iPads and a cart for the school from the Funds for the Fifth Auction.
- **HIGH SCHOOL:** THE 6th Annual Parents for Scholars Event "Saddle Up for Scholars" will be on February 28, and a parent education series is currently underway.
- **SPOEDE:** Passport Night will be February 6.
- **LECC:** Enrollment at the LECC is strong.
- **SSD:** There will be a forum for parents facilitated by UMSL. A flyer will be sent to eligible families.
- **LMS:** Registration is beginning for next year. I AM LMS day, dedicated to diversity, will be on Thursday, February 12. Parent Association board positions are available for next year, and the Parent Association is brainstorming for fundraising ideas.
- **CO:** On February 14, The Dads Club will have a Conway Cupids lunch. An evening talk on text safety is planned this spring.
- **LEF:** A spring event will be held around the arts on March 28 to build community and awareness of the LEF. A debate event featuring former debate coach Bill Heyde will be on April 12.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- What is the policy for cell phone use in the schools? Differs at each level - very little use at elementary; middle school still not a lot. At the high school level, cell phones are used periodically for instruction, but with the provided iPads, cell phones are needed less. It is up to the teacher when to use and when to put away cell phones. If they become a nuisance, phones are taken away by the teacher.
- Are students seeing commercials on their iPads? They shouldn't be – the district controls the devices and filters are in place.
- What can be done to avoid scheduling two big events on the same night? The events mentioned are parent-controlled, not district-controlled. Parent Associations need to communicate with each other – and put big, "all-invited" events on the district calendar to avoid double booking.