



**CDSP General Meeting
June 6, 2024, 10 a.m.
At the Board of Education**

In person: Joanna Walsh, Crystal Hill, Byrne Pozzi, Jessica Levey, Carrie Vomacka, Caitlin Cahill, Libby Cook, Adrienne Kelly, Kelly Scallon, Beth Lane, Caroline Jennings, Katie D’Acunto, Emily Thomas, Kathy Jabara, Vicky Coughlin, Kate Kaufman, Vanessa Donatello, Daisy Strauss ,Amy Reid, Lauren Swenson.

Meeting called to order by Crystal Hill at 10:09 a.m.

Vote to approve the minutes from April 11, 2024. Motion to approve by Crystal Hill. Kate Kaufman, First; Caroline Jennings, Second. Passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Updates:

Motion to approve the 2024/2025 Slate Libby, Carrie, Majority voted to approve.

Adrienne Kelly asked for clarification on the nominating process. Caitlin Cahill explained that every school sends one representative to the nominating committee; they meet initially to offer names and to understand what positions they need to fill. The reps then go back to their school communities to solicit interest and names for the open positions. The group meets again to give updates on interest and responses. Then the names are taken back to the existing Executive Board. The General CDSP votes on the slate. Crystal explained that for the CDSP executive board we are looking for volunteers who have experience and working knowledge of both the district and the PTO’s. Adrienne Kelly feels the need is not communicated well to a broader audience and wanted to know who the DHS rep was. Beth Lane, co-chair of DHS, was the Nominating rep for DHS. She would suggest that they start the nominating process earlier next year.

Budget has been approved.

Teen Talk is coming to MMS; they have had a successful first year at DHS. The program is run by Kids in Crisis – who hire and train the counselor. Dr. Addley originally explained that the Community Fund is paying for this through a grant; but they are contributing \$30,000, Darien Health and Human Services is contributing \$40,000 and they raised \$30,000 from the greater Darien community. Health and Human services has already said they will not contribute to this effort next year.

Yesterday, at the Human Services planning meeting Janet King, Executive Director of TCF, said that they have reached the goal for this year so it will proceed at MMS. They intend to donate less each year.

Christina Aldrich, AP at Ox Ridge, has resigned from her extended maternity leave to accept a position closer to her home.

There is a new cell phone policy at MMS, that is very similar to the existing policy. The new policy will be better enforced. Cell phones will be in student backpacks and lockers for the entire school day.

24/25 District Calendar was updated at the last BOE meeting. Changes include:

- elementary conferences moving from December to October
- Wednesday before Thanksgiving is a full day off
- Added back the PD before MLK Weekend
- Moved PD that is typically before Feb break to the Monday after break

Dr. Addley stopped by to say hello and answer questions. Interview positions: MMS Principal, new MMS AP and new DHS AP, Ox Ridge AP. Parents and staff will be involved when they have the appropriate candidate pool. He will communicate the new cell phone policy to parents before the end of the school year and have the principals reiterate the policy this summer. Enforcement of this policy will be collaborative among teachers, students and parents; it will not be a disciplinary process. Adrienne Kelly believes that the bigger adjustment will be the smart watches in elementary schools. Dr. Addley feels that most of the feedback from MMS is that most of the kids are following the rules but that the issue is distraction during classes. The difference will be that this is a collective effort across the district. Vicki Coughlin suggests adding the new policy to the parent handbook and highlighting this during the Open House. She also recommends consistency among the teachers and staff, so the students aren't guessing what is expected of them and are able to live up to those expectations. Amy Reid suggests that communication is two-fold; one for the students where they are introduced to the policy, and they sign that they understand and have read the rules. The second is clear communication to the teachers and staff of the disciplinary expectations. Carrie Vomacka recommends adding a third strategy to include the parents in the communication. He thanked the PTOs for the technology each PTO is gifting to the elementary schools. He apologized for the mistakes with the originally distributed 24/25 district calendar. Joanna Walsh asked how teen talk will be funded moving forward, Dr. Addley said that if Teen Talk is successful at MMS then it will be put into the budget for the following years.

Carrie Vomacka confirmed that Dr. Addley is open to hosting a Town Hall the week before school begins for MMS parents. He is not opposed to the idea but wants to meet with the new principal before he commits. What the teams will look like, meet the principal, reinforce the cell phone policy; ease minds prior to the beginning of the new year.

Officer Updates:

(Special Education):

- Two special ed co-chairs next year want to focus on community building.

Libby Cook (Treasurer):

- We will close out the year with a net profit of \$500; we are still waiting on one invoice.
- Libby really needs Ox Ridge insurance.

Megan Thornton / Christina Kreutz (Budget):

- See update above.

Caitlin Cahill (Nominating/Special Projects):

- Caitlin is proposing the PTOs at each elementary school and MMS gift their buildings an iPad and a tripod; as Colleen Thompson has recommended, so there is consistency in our schools ability to record events and distribute to our parent body. Please discuss with your executive boards at the beginning of next school year; the funds will come out of PTO reserves.

- Caitlin will also create a standard document detailing who will keep the equipment, and how and when the PTO can use it.

Byrne Pozzi (Communications/Community Partners):

- No update currently.

Diane Urban / Carrie Vomacka (DEI):

- The DEI calendar has been approved by administration and Principals and will be distributed to all incoming co-chairs.
- Diane is excited to introduce her new co-chair.

School Updates:

Hindley:

- No updates.

Holmes:

- No updates.

Royle:

- No updates.

Ox Ridge

- No updates.

MMS:

- No updates.

DHS:

- Homecoming weekend October 18 – 20; save the date is being sent out before the end of year.

Tokeneke

- No updates.

New Business:

None from the floor.

Motion to adjourn by 11:16am. Libby Cook First; Beth Lane, Second. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Levey, CDSP Secretary.