

PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Perry Schools Discussion Notes

November 20, 2014

EC Room 210, 4:10PM:-5:00PM (Approximate Time)

ATTENDANCE

Administration: Rhonda Jones-Jointer (EC), Vicki Carpenter (EC), John Ralston (PA), , David Henriott (RPE), Frank Giles (EC), Rolland Abraham (PMHS), David Henriott (RPE), and Whitney Wilkowski (ALE)

PEA: Neil Linville (PMHS), Danielle Brooking (PMA), Kyle Hanefeld (GV), Matt Henninger (PMHS), Mark Madden (ALE), Steve Dawson (PMHS), Nancy Tatum(PA), and Diane Turpen (PMHS), Cathy Cullison (SHS), Rebecca Rissel (GV), and Sue Buscemi (WV)

Potential Referendum

Neil Linville stated that he and Dr. Little are meeting with school staffs before the December 8th Board of Education hearing concerning whether or not Perry Township Schools will seek a referendum to address the space needs of the district.

Space needs are extreme and will get worse. Currently 26 portable classrooms are being used at the elementary schools where our student populations are 550 students over capacity. Projections indicate that the district will be 2200 over capacity in a few years. If a referendum is not sought and voted in, district leadership will have to look at using current music, art, and gym space for classroom use. The cost per classroom trailer per year is \$10,000, which does not include setting up equipment, organizing the room, setting up safety infrastructure, and manpower to set them up and maintain them. Also, classrooms may increase with adding trailers, but the number of available bathrooms do not increase. A permanent fix is needed to alleviate problems presented by trailer classrooms: student and teacher security, logistical problems of student movement to specials and bathrooms, and loss of instructional time.

Vicki Carpenter proposes to create four kindergarten centers as part of the referendum. She has met with the kindergarten teachers. She wishes to create 29 classrooms at four different sites, which will be separate kindergarten buildings attached to elementary buildings: Jeremiah Gray, Homecroft, Rosa Parks, and Douglas MacArthur. She has met with kindergarten teachers to determine what kind of support is needed and what specials teachers are needed. Her intent is not to reduce programs now offered to students.

The referendum would also seek to remodel Winchester Village, which is currently an open-concept building. Security is an issue because kids cannot hide in emergency situation. Sound from adjoining areas is also a distraction for both teachers and students.

EL Accountability

Vicki Carpenter reported about EL progress with AMAO (Adequate Measureable Achievement Objectives).

Last year we did not make the state target, but students did grow significantly. The state target was to get 15% of kids to level 5. We had 14% of kids make level 5 -- we grew from 9% to 14% in one year. Our growth was 75% while the state target was 53%. Our huge refugee population creates a unique challenge as a huge number of our EL students come to us as a level 1. Of the 4,045 EL students, 2,028 are refugees. State officials have acknowledged that EL students at level one cannot be moved to level 5 in one year. DOE did not count our level 5's in our EL break out group toward AMAO.

Vicki has communicated to state officials about the challenges we face with a large refugee EL population. In writing, she was promised more funding to assist this student group, but she has not received this and is unsure if she will receive it. Currently, we are getting \$213 per child in additional state funding, but we are spending \$750 per child. The township is spending \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to pay EL teachers. She continues to lobby state officials for more

resources.

The community needs to hear about the successes in EL growth. We need to communicate that referendum funds are to help all Perry Township Students, not just refugee students.

Payroll- Increase Withholdings for Lump Sum -Completing W-4 forms

At the beginning of the school year, some teachers filled out a new W4 to have tax deductions taken on the lump sum. Teachers must fill out a new W4 to return to the previous deduction amount.

Portable Safety Reminder

If a student needs to leave a portable, the teacher must be the one to open the door. Principals need to have a discussion will discuss this procedure in their buildings.

Unsupervised Adults during the School Day

Elementary teachers and staff are reminded to follow proper procedures concerning parent classroom visits. Some parents have been eating lunch with student and then visiting the teachers' classroom while students are in the classroom, which is a safety concern as well as potentially lost instructional time.

Technology

Teachers are concerned about forgetting passwords when they must be frequently changed. After 3 password changes, a staff member may reuse the 1st password used as long as it complies with password criterion. Staff members will be required to change their passwords every 6 month and must have 2 passwords in between reusing a password.

Help Desk was praised for warm response and quick service Teachers are encouraged to call Help Desk with computer technology problems. Work orders are being handled quickly and efficiently.

Open Enrollment

Rhonda Jointer-Jones reported minimal complaints about the benefits enrollment process as there were few changes in offerings. Voluntary life insurance is offered without proof of insurability.

Staff members are encouraged to check the beneficiary's page in Benetrac. A death benefit goes to the listed beneficiaries. No beneficiaries are listed unless the staff member adds them in. Beneficiaries can be changed anytime.

Vision amounts for teachers initially were not correct in Benetrac. Enrollment for vision was reopened so that teachers could view rates and have an opportunity to sign up.

Neil Linville suggested that teachers be repeatedly reminded to set up life insurance beneficiaries.

HR could hold help sessions to communicate benefits offerings, one on each side of the district. PEA would advertise these sessions. Principals could remind staff of benefits offerings and deadlines at faculty meetings. Online information is convenient and helpful to some, but face-to-face reminders are helpful. HR office has computers available and can help staff see and understand benefits options.

Having flu shots available on a Saturday at the clinic was beneficial as it was well attended.

Next meeting Thursday, December 18 4:10PM in Room 210 (May need to reschedule.)