

CSC Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 3, 4 p.m.

Present: Marisa Hudson-Arney (parent); Michelle Higgins (staff); Peggy Batchelor (parent); Jenny Reynolds (parent); Jessica Rogers (teacher); Gail Axt (GT and librarian); Anne Sterrett (principal); Robyn Wille (community member).

Discussion:

1. Welcome Robyn Wille, Community Member
2. School Growth Data
 - a. Ms. Sterrett shared with the CSC the school's growth data results. She further explained that these growth scores are derived by comparing individual students with like peers to see year over year growth.
 - b. The median growth percentile (MGP) for a school is 50% - that percentile represents a year's growth. A higher percentage means more than a year's growth; everyone would like to be above 50%.
 - c. Examining Polaris' MGP (via chart from Ms. Sterrett), there is a decrease in growth in math and ELA in the 5th grade.
 - i. The math growth scores are consistently low in the 5th grade.
 - ii. Ms. Sterrett and the teachers have been examining this data to determine how best to improve MGP in the future. They have further differentiated the 5th grade math classes and will continue to work on this moving forward.
 - iii. In the primary grades, the teachers are using a grade level higher content to boost the math learning. In 2nd grade, they are working with a handful of new to Polaris students to see where the holes are and this process is working ok.
 - d. There is a similar trend in the ELA scores (lower 5th grade growth scores). The staff has been working on using a structure called genre studies.
 - e. Ms. Sterrett hopes that the lower growth scores in 5th grade do not affect the school performance rating. She does not believe it will as she expects the growth scores to improve. In addition, Polaris has the highest achievement scores in the district and state in most categories.
 - f. A discussion ensued about the nature of the new tests and how the various cut scores are derived.

3. Tech Budget – Ms. Sterrett has been working with Katie Ray (technology teacher) to compile a budget for years moving forward – long range plan.
 - a. The idea is to plan ahead for replacement of equipment, etc.
 - b. This is budgeted money from a past mill levy that must be used on technology.
 - c. This year’s budget includes light bulbs for promethean boards; some new computers, new chrome books and new ipads.

4. Mill Levy 2016 funds – letter received in Thursday folder
 - a. Ms. Sterrett explained the projects contained in that letter were all district determined as far as facility issues were concerned.

5. Advanced Kindergarten Discussion and Report from District Meeting on 9/28
 - a. After substantial discussion, the CSC intends to recommend to the GT and Choice Offices that the choice placement preference for Polaris be changed for the qualified (HGT) children currently in the kindergarten class. It is the CSC’s recommendation that these qualified children be given a priority to return to the school ahead of the general lottery in order to provide continuity of education.
 - b. Marisa will prepare a letter to the relevant powers that be on behalf of the CSC.

Next Meeting – Monday, November 7, 4 p.m.