

**Parent Key Communicator Meeting
March 13, 2019
Minutes**

Good News Sharing

High School

- Students from Denmark are in Great Valley and their visit is going well.
- CPR is being offered to students as part of the health program. This year, 9th and 11th grade students were compression certified. By next year, all levels will have received the training.

General Wayne

- The teacher appreciation lunch will be held in May.
- Book Fair is March 22-29

Sugartown

- Teacher Anne McCrory was selected as the District Finalist in the Citadel Heart of Learning Awards Program.
- Hershey Park fundraiser is currently being offered (through March 15).
- The school held a successful book fair.

Charlestown

- Science Night was a success.
- Spring Fair is upcoming.

K.D. Markley

- Heritage Night is on March 20.
- The Spring Fair is upcoming.
- Literacy Night was successful, as was Bingo Night.

Information Sharing

Recycling in Our Schools

Jim Abraham and Pat Scott from the Buildings and Grounds Department spoke with parents about the District's recycling efforts. They spoke specifically about recycling in the cafeteria, which includes bottles and cans, and also spoke about District-wide recycling of cardboard and paper. One challenge they face in these efforts, however, is the mixing of trash with recyclables.

Title II

Title II, Part A, is a federally funded supplemental education program that provides financial assistance

to improve the skills of teachers and the quality of instruction in core academic subjects in public and private elementary and secondary schools. Funds in Great Valley are primarily used for the professional development of staff. Part of the requirement related to funding is that the district annually solicit the input of parents related to the application of funds. To that end, Supervisor of Specialized Programs Abby Linderman met with the group. Parents asked if professional development time could be utilized to standardize math instruction, or if teachers could teach each other or do peer observations.

Title IV

Title IV, Part A, is related to providing students with a well-rounded education, supporting safe and healthy students, and supporting the effective use of technology. Funds are currently used in Great Valley to support the Speaker Series, which focuses on creating safe and healthy school environments. Part of the requirement related to funding is that the district annually solicit the input of parents related to the application of funds. To that end, Supervisor of Specialized Programs Abby Linderman met with the group. Parents suggested that we consider adding more programs for the parents of elementary students, and that we continue to seek community partnerships which might support parents in their efforts with students. Parents also spoke highly of the Speaker Series presentation that included Emily Torchiana, as she was someone with whom students seemed to connect/relate.

Summer Learning Opportunities

Supervisor of Specialized Programs Abby Linderman spoke with the group about summer learning opportunities that will be offered in the summer of 2019. There are camp-style opportunities available for students entering every grade, K-12. More information is available at www.gvsd.org/summerlearning.

Full Day Kindergarten Update

Superintendent Regina Speaker Palubinsky updated the group on the Board's decision to adopt full-day kindergarten (FDK) for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. The full-day program will not be optional (there will be no half-day offering for students). Work is now underway to plan for the full-day program and includes teachers and administrators. All of the resources from the consideration of FDK remain on our website at www.gvsd.org/fdk. Kindergarten registration is open (through March 21).

School Start Times

The PA State Legislature passed SR417: A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to conduct a study on secondary school start time in the Commonwealth. Dr. Speaker Palubinsky spoke with the group about many of the challenges currently facing the district related to this issue, including busing, PIAA sports/schedules, etc. She acknowledged that the Board/District are aware of the conversation and that other districts have adjusted their start times to be closer to what Great Valley currently observes. None of the districts have pushed the secondary start time as late as 8:30 a.m., which is what research on the topic suggests.

Issues from the Floor

The group engaged in a conversation about school communications and consistency in those communications from one building to another. The topic of report cards was specifically mentioned and how/if each school communicates when they are available in Skyward Family Access. Jennifer Blake shared that she would bring the topic to principal meetings in an effort to identify/develop common messages for topics that relate district-wide.

The group also suggested that it might be helpful to develop something for new parents that addresses how/where they can access the plethora of information available to them.

Topics raised for the next meeting include: the District's current feasibility study; and information sharing about summer work and how that might impact activities at/around our schools.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Parent Key Communicator meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, at 9:30 a.m.