

# Parent Key Communicator Meeting

## December 12, 2019 Minutes

Present: Kathleen Bergen, Sangeetha Voyalur Sakthi, Brenna Wimmer, Belinda Brown, Meenakshi Krishnamurthy, Priya Bhuvanendran, Bobbijo Pinnelli, Jamie Sindell, Lynette Grant, Cristina Hartley, Emily Stahl, Melissa Brilliant, Danielle Kennedy, Jennifer Blake (facilitator), Dr. Regina Speaker Palubinsky (superintendent), Dr. Tricia Beck (director of teaching and learning), Abby Linderman (supervisor of specialized programs), Nicole Melia (supervisor of food service), David Barratt (school board representative), and Jessica Leitch (administrative assistant).

### Good News Sharing

#### ***Charlestown Elementary School***

- The Turkey Trot was successful, as were all of the concerts.
- PKCs highlighted the Adopt A Family effort; 403 total gifts were purchased by staff and families, and wrapped by students.
- The author visit went well.

#### ***General Wayne Elementary School***

- An evergreen tree was donated from Navarro Landscaping and dedicated to Julia Bitto.
- ISHI rocks project is still going well. An Instagram (@GWESRocks) is being maintained.
- The Thanksgiving parade was spectacular.
- The author visit went well; students received tips on writing.
- Spirit day is happening in the building on the first Friday of every month.

#### ***KD Markley Elementary School***

- The Diwali lunch was a huge success, as was their Turkey Trot and Halloween parade.
- There were a few different author visits for 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade play will be Little Red Riding Hood.
- The Franklin Institute visited KDM.

#### ***Sugartown Elementary School***

- The silent auction and dance party was popular.
- There will be a service component to the winter party. Boxes will be decorated for the food pantry.
- 1<sup>st</sup> graders are working on a kindness rock project. This project focuses on giving back.
- There is a new student-run newspaper called the Sugartown Sweet.

#### ***Great Valley Middle School***

- The new social worker is a great addition.
- The inclusive holiday display is wonderful.
- The Diwali lunch was really appreciated.

### ***Great Valley High School***

- The Diwali lunch was awesome.
- The NHS Induction was beautiful.
- The finance club took a trip to NYC. The visit to the 9/11 site was moving.
- Navarro Landscaping donated a tree to the HS. Students are fundraising to benefit CHOP.

## **Information Sharing**

### **Follow up from previous meeting**

- A PKC member raised a concern at the last meeting regarding changes to the music curriculum and class structure at the middle school. We have received the following response from the middle school principal, Dr. Souders:

“General Music: There is no curricular or experiential difference between the previous or new meeting cycle for students not participating in chorus, band, and or orchestra with the exception of meeting 2 days of a cycle for the school year vs. every day for one marking period.

General Music with choral, band, and or orchestra concentration: This is a new experience for students participating in the concentrations sections. If a student is assigned to any one of the concentration sections, the students would have a combined lessons/instructional experience. This move was done to avoid students missing instructional time for lessons. It increased lesson time and preserved the 8th period full band, choral, and orchestra rehearsals. The curricular components are also covered, but are often embedded in the learning of the instrument and or choral experience.

Overall the rigor and curricular experience has remained unchanged. The scheduling change has adjusted lesson time by increasing time without the loss of instructional time during the school day. “

- A PKC member raised concerns surrounding the HS math curriculum. Dr. Tricia Beck shared that this curriculum change began about 3 years ago. National consultants were hired to help teachers with instruction and instructional practices. The curriculum team has identified the need for more support in engaging students. A concern was shared surrounding math and PSAT's. Per Dr. Beck, the PSAT and ACT requirements frequently change. She feels confident that the skills necessary for those tests are being taught and addressed.
- A PKC member raised a concern about the time provided for elementary lunch. Jenn Blake shared that she spoke with elementary principals and they are certain that the allotted time is enough. The time duration for lunch is the same for all elementary schools. Nicole Melia reported that the food service department is always happy to look into options that might save time, such as providing bagged apples instead of whole apples. A concern about ice cream in the cafeterias was also raised.

- A PKC member questioned the process of becoming an advisor for a club. It was confirmed that a parent can be an advisor to a club as long as the parent has current clearances and works with the principal to secure facility space and structure.

### **Summer Learning Experiences**

Abby Linderman shared that the district will offer online registration and online payment for summer camps in 2020. Registration will open in January. A preview is available on the website. There is at least one camp available for each grade level. While most camps are 1 week in duration, there are a few 2-week camp options.

### **Superintendent Coffees**

PKCs will host a “Coffee with the Superintendent” on January 22, 2020. The featured topic will be the District’s Feasibility Study. PKC members were asked to advertise within their school communities. It was clarified that PKC will be co-hosting the event and it will be used as an opportunity for parents in the community to learn more about what PKC does, and ask questions or raise their own concerns. It was recommended that there be an opportunity for those in attendance to share their recommendations for future discussions and topics. It was confirmed that parents may bring their younger children to the meeting; however, supervision will not be provided for those children.

### **2020-2021 Calendar**

The School Board approved a calendar for 2020-2021. That calendar is posted on the District website.

### **Feasibility Update**

Dr. Speaker Palubinsky shared that SHRADERGROUP is leading the District’s Feasibility Study. David Schrader is a GV resident and has children who attend our schools. The architect’s evaluation began last spring with assessments of each building. They reviewed all property and building needs for the next 10 years. Their assessment includes all projected expenses.

Meetings with the community were held in October, November, and December. Additional opportunities for community input will be offered. The Board is expected to set next steps in early 2020.

### **Outside Tutoring**

A PKC member raised a question about hiring outside tutors. Dr. Speaker Palubinsky shared that the District has two policies related to tutors: 553 and 116. They are available on the District’s website.

**The meeting was adjourned.**