

PKC Meeting, Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Attendees: Dr. Daniel Goffredo, Jennifer Blake, Brenda Thorpe, Melissa Brilliant, Jodi Segarnick, Miriam Sandler, Suntri Kantamaneni, Monica Ryan, Jackie Webb, Jennifer Ginelli, Beth Kaniuk, Dee Nimmagadda, Lavanya Mandapati, Roxanne Cockerham, Andrea Lanning-Guenster, Rachel Dewey

Absent: Erin Robins, Theresa Becker, Dave Barrett

Jennifer Blake started the meeting by showing PKC members the 5/6 Center information on the Great Valley School District website. She demonstrated how to navigate the site to find information. From the district homepage, there is a picture link titled "Planning Our 5/6 Center." Clicking on this picture will bring you to the Great Valley School District webpage for all information on the 5/6 Center. Links on the left side of the page provide additional information. The "Videos" option directs to a virtual tour of the 5/6 Center. Dr. Goffredo talked the attendees through the virtual tour.

Good News Sharing:

GVHS:

- Parents were pleased to share that the HS has 16 merit scholarship semifinalists.
- Parents shared positive feedback about a teacher.
- The Great Valley High School handbook is available online. Additionally, the high school is using a QR code that links to information about clubs and the faculty advisors for those clubs.
- Parents reported that the high school sports teams are doing great and the field hockey team is 7-1.

KDM:

- KDM had a great back-to-school night.
- Parents shared that the KDM community is excited about the upcoming color run and they have created sponsorship opportunities so all can participate.

ST:

- Sugartown had 50 parents attend their last PTO meeting. Parents are pleased to have homeroom parents back.
- Parents feel the transportation issue has improved by letting students in the building earlier and by having police to help guide traffic. The situation is not ideal but has improved.

Concerns from Schools:

- Parents are concerned with the vandalism of school bathrooms, the new 90/10 grading system, and the Junior-Senior Prom.

General Discussion/ Parent Questions:

5/6 Center:

Enrollment for the 5/6 center when it opens in the fall of 2024 is projected to be 750 students. The building is designed for 900 and can be expanded to 1200. Jennifer Blake reminded parents that the community was engaged early in a process to develop a plan to alleviate crowding in our schools. The creation of the 5/6 center was the result of a community process.

The transportation routes for the 5/6 Center have not been designed yet. KDM school hours will remain the same as they've been, while the hours for the 5/6 Center will be more aligned to a secondary schedule. GVSD is working with PennDOT on a traffic study. The findings from the PennDOT study are expected in 4-6 weeks.

Dr. Goffredo shared that the opening of a 5/6 Center will have impacts on the current middle school. Discussion on that topic will begin next year.

The construction of the 5/6 Center will prompt the movement of the KDM playground. More information will be shared with the KDM community later in the process. Outdoor classrooms and learning options in those spaces were discussed. While there isn't a plan to systemically introduce outside classrooms, there are some spaces built into the design of the 5/6 Center.

Parents inquired if the 5/6 Center would incorporate a project-based learning style. Dr. Goffredo acknowledged the value of project-based learning and said the new space will have a flexible design for collaboration.

COVID-19:

A parent asked if a negative COVID-19 test is required for a student who was out to sick to return to school. There is not a requirement for test results if all protocols are followed (unless the protocol calls for one).

The group discussed streaming and whether it is made available to students who are out sick. If a student is out on a required quarantine or with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, streaming will be available. It will not be available to a student who is home sick because of another illness or as a choice (precaution).

Transportation:

Parents asked for clarification about how they can request for a student to begin riding the bus (if they haven't been riding). Dr. Goffredo shared that parents can begin utilizing the bus at any time by sending an email to the transportation department. Dr. Goffredo did mention that the district is still experiencing the effects of the national bus driver shortage and will accommodate the influx of bus riding students with additional bus runs.

Other:

A parent asked if the monthly Read-A-Loud book and the discussion questions could be shared with parents. Dr. Goffredo shared he is very pleased with how the monthly Read-A-Loud videos

have been received. He said that he'd take the Read Aloud sharing suggestion back to the admin team to see how that might effectively happen.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for November 11, 2021.