

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting 13-18

SPECIAL MEETING

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held \_\_\_\_\_ JUNE 2, \_\_\_\_\_ 20 18 \_\_\_\_\_

The Special Meeting (Chat & Chew) of the Warrensville Heights Board of Education was held on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., at the Cuyahoga County Public Library Warrensville Branch, 4415 Northfield Road, Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Michele Elba, Mr. Ray A. Freeman, Mrs. Millicent Gaiter, Ms. Traci Mitchell, Mrs. Barbara A. Mumin

Attendees: Community members, parents and educators. Mrs. Elba has a complete list of names.

### Chat & Chew:

The Board met in a public meeting in order to interact with the school community with Board President Freeman presenting an overview of the purpose of the Chat and Chew meeting.

- Board Members introduced themselves to the community, shared interesting information about themselves
- President Freeman gave an overview of the purpose of the Chat & Chew:

To reaffirm our intent to maintain two-way communications with citizens of the District. This is our opportunity to keep the community informed of the progress and problems of the school District, and the citizen shall be urged to bring their aspirations and concerns about the District to the attention of this body (the Board of Education).

### Thoughts & Comments from the Community:

There were over-arching themes that arose from Saturday's conversation:

1. A sense of pride is slowly returning to Warrensville, educators feel better about what is happening in the District
2. Training, development and having the 'right' employees in place
3. Security Concerns
4. Parental engagement is too low
5. Managing scholars dealing with trauma and mental health concerns
6. Lack of consistency in the District
  - a. Support from Administration building (Mr. Jolly) is evident, but his guidance isn't filtering through each building
  - b. Ensuring role/position clarity – what is role of guidance counselor vs school social worker

### Comments supporting themes from the meeting:

- Sense of Pride is returning to Warrensville
- Enjoy Tiger Pride – didn't care for "The Warrensville Way", it was too reflective of the way things were in the District at the time (negative)
- Didn't care for what was going on in 2013, 2014
- Community is supportive of the work the District is doing
- Many comments about the 'growth and development' the District is displaying
- Enjoy the opportunity for gender-specific classes. Empowers ability to build scholars self-esteem – Black Girl Magic specifically noted
- Continue building cultural diversity in the classroom; through educators, students and coursework

### Training and Development Needs:

- Lunch aides aren't focused on the job at hand.
- Two aides for three classes; ~ 20-25 scholars – too many children. Fights break out at lunch and recess [Security].

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- Scholars are not allowed to socialize during lunch – some buildings they eat in silence, others they are allowed to talk, but not enough. [Lack of consistency throughout the District].
- Tone of voice used with scholars during lunch/recess is inappropriate – there should no yelling.
- Recess should be a time when scholars are allowed to release pent up energy, so they can focus in afternoon classes; they're only given 15 minutes of playtime.

John Dewey has expressed these concerns to building administrators:

- Low pay was noted as a concern for lunch aides – specifically their lack of engagement
- \$60 background check is a deterrent for volunteers to pay – can District offset cost?
- Better volunteer screening
- Potential Solution: Reach out to local colleges to recruit education majors to work as interns at WHCSD; helps with their needed hours. Also, reach out to local churches and South Point for volunteers as well. Will need to set and clearly articulate expectations for volunteers, observing to ensure the expectations are consistently met throughout the District. Develop a structured training program.
- Also noted--can the District look at the meal menus? Processed food and milk [type of] being served to students is a concern.

Security Concerns:

- Leaking roof in John Dewey gym.
- There is a feeling we do not have enough guards at elementary buildings.
- A perception of ease of entry into all buildings, except high school.
- Guards not consistently asking for visitor ID.
- Potential Solution: Establish a Welcome Desk similar to Twinsburg City Schools, and/or electronic kiosk for visitor information intake, and printing of visitor pass.
- Bullying is still a concern, especially in lower grades; concerns voiced that assemblies discussing bullying program was not paid much attention by scholars. Can this program be included as a topic in the Blue & Gold Academy? Also, how have parents been told about this program?
- Security concerns on school buses - #5 and #15 were named.
- Middle School Band and Music room is used as a recess, and is out-of-control.
- Lack of security and no secretary at the Recreation Center; also noted custodian isn't keeping facility clear.
- Potential Solution: Develop program about citizenship. What it means to be a good citizen, behaviors, mindsets, actions. Citizenship is not addressed at home for all scholars, teach it in schools.
- Potential Solution: African Proverb "It takes a village to raise a child." Build a parent course, helping parents learn how to be engaged parents – without making them feel they're not good parents. Pastor Mike, his wife Toni and Eastwood's Special Ed teacher all noted they are willing to be part of a task force to explore what's needed to help parents and grandparents raise today's children. A Grandparents Club was also noted as a solution to help them raise their grandchildren.

Low Parental Engagement:

- Building a sense of a 'village' will help.
- Explore and provide outside of the box means of meeting with parents – better use of technology [especially in new buildings].
- K Florence [Parent] and Mrs. Thompson [Parent Liaison] will partner in Walford, meeting with residents to gain insight into lack of parental involvement.

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- Parent Liaison pay scale was noted on numerous occasions as a concern, and possible reason for lack of engagement; Better pay allows for more time to invest in developing best family engagement programs.
- What is the actual role of the Parent Liaison?
- It was also noted that bullying and poor behavior displayed by board of education members has become a deterrent to parents to remain engaged in our meetings. Our behavior cascades throughout the District, helping build negativity vs positivity – we're live streamed and people in and out of our community see our behaviors live.

Technology:

- When will 1 to 1 technology come to the elementary schools? Especially with I Ready being used more and more?
- Special Education training has changed with newer students learning totally new material. How do we combine old school and new school curriculum?

Managing scholars dealing with trauma and mental health concerns

- What is the role of the Guidance Counselor and the District social worker in these situations?
- Would be great for every building to have at minimum one guidance counselor.
- Allow guidance counselors to perform the job duties they were hired to perform – what is their job description?
- Children can't perform academically when faced with trauma in the home.
- Can we review our partnership with the Cleveland Clinic [South Point] and leverage their pediatric social workers?
- Are all educators able to take coursework in Trauma in Education as an in service offered by CSU?

Can this be part of the Blue & Gold Academy?

- Suicide concerns in lower grades, how is this being managed?
- It was asked if we can help develop an Advocacy Group, working together to address concerns noted.

It was also asked if Civics program in the Middle School can be ramped up to include the following:

1. More civic-minded activities displayed by Student Council Members.
  - a. Give MS scholars a voice – ability to have students share what they'd like to see in the MS.
  - b. Plan civic activities vs school party-like events.
2. Can we look at having a MS scholar participate or present in some school board meetings – work sessions?

Adjournment

Upon no further business President Freeman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

DATE

8/30/18

PRESIDENT



ATTEST:

TREASURER

