

10.16.18

Community Transition Committee Meeting - Minutes

Present: Patty Sweeney Morey, Natalie Oldfield, Madeleine Reeners, Angela Wanish, Bonni Hodges, Katie Swanson, Shannon Constantino, Bethany Cutler, Sandra Attleson, Jordan Ashley, Cliff Kostuk, Judie Murphy, Wendy Clay, and Michael Hoose,.

Mr. Hoose reported that the transition page is being updated, including the Questions and Answers document.

It was remarked that it is important to have a representative from each parent teacher organization on this committee. Is there a way to ensure that all the parent-teacher organizations are operating in coordination? It is important to ensure that events don't conflict. There has been some informal conversation about a central organization with building subgroups or subcommittees. If we are making the district into grade-centers that flow, then perhaps the organizations could work similarly. PTA v. PTO would have to be determined. Reminder: these organizations are not formally affiliated with the school district. Parker's group has a date and location to suggest for a summit of the different organizations.

How will the schools be named? Barry, Smith, Randall? Or, Primary, Intermediate, Middle? Cortland Primary School at Barry? Barry Primary School?

A single mascot could be used, perhaps growing up from school to school -- probably a tiger. We could retire the existing mascots that could be a metaphor for the transition. We also need to consider tee shirts and colors. When students come to the new school to visit they could receive a new shirt. Make it a positive transition rather than mourning a loss. The sooner we make this decision about all being Purple Tigers, the better. Youth football has done a good job with this, stressing that everyone is one family.

How would 6th grade graduation work? Who would pay? Is there a graduation when everyone transitions together? Transition ceremony rather than a graduation?

How can we be sure that all families, whether involved in parent teacher organizations or not, are informed about the transition and are aware of the avenues to participate?

Can we use the impending parent-teacher conferences as a mechanism for communication? At curriculum night we handed out information -- could we do it again? Something different? We could ask teachers to hand out the one-pager again at the conclusion of the parent conference, or they could be distributed from a table then and at other events.

Could there be an additional way to characterize the change to grade-centers? Talking points for people to use? Reiterate the "why." Also, we should communicate with UPK providers.

The sooner we can communicate the specifics about transportation and before/after care the better people will feel. The sooner we can announce the start and stop times of school and before/after programs, the better. When can we post this?

How can we involve students in the transition communication and transition process?