

District 181 PTO President Meeting Minutes
Provided by Jean Duggan, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education
February 6, 2018 • Prospect School

Call to Order

9:10 a.m.

In Attendance

PTO Presidents, Prospect PTO Executive Board, Prospect Principal Anne Kryger, D181 Foundation Executive Director Matt Bousquette, Board of Education President Jennifer Burns, Superintendent Dr. Don White, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Learning (C&I) Joan Woolwine, Guest Presenter: Prospect PTO Presentation: William Penn Sister School (Kimberly Leigh)

Welcome

Principal Anne Kryger welcomed the group to Prospect School.

Minutes (January 9, 2018)

Approved as presented.

Prospect School PTO Presentation: William Penn Sister School (Kimberly Leigh)

More information about this topic is available on the Prospect School PTO website (Volunteers tab).

Ms. Kimberly Leigh shared that approximately 15 years ago Prospect School “adopted” William Penn Elementary School in the Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, as their “Sister School.” Penn School has approximately 400 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Although it was noted the enrollment fluctuates throughout the year and at the present time enrollment is approximately 300 students. As part of her presentation she shared a video presentation, which is also available on YouTube.

Ms. Leigh shared that Prospect School supports Penn through a variety of initiatives, but the major focus of the partnership lies in running a monthly rewards store, “The Ollie Store,” on the lower level of Penn School. Penn students receive “Olliebucks” from their teachers for exhibiting good behavior, obtaining good grades, attendance, homework completions, and attitude, etc. Once a month, students visit The Ollie Store and buy goods, all generously donated from Prospect families, teachers and PTO. In addition to the donations, members of Prospect’s PTO Sister School committee travel to Penn once a month to open the store for the students to purchase items with their Olliebucks. She also shared that two Prospect PTO alumni accompany them during these monthly trips.

In addition to the store, the PTO hosts an annual fall/winter coat drive. Many students from Penn do not have hats, coats, gloves, or mittens. The donations are then given to the Assistant Principal to distribute them accordingly.

The Prospect School leadership team applied for a D181 Foundation grant for kids. The students wrote the grant and submitted it to the Foundation and were awarded \$150.00. These funds were used to buy board games for the students at Penn.

Ms. Leigh described an additional fundraising activity, "Pennies for Penn." Prospect families donate change during Prospect's fall book fair. An average of \$880.00 has been raised to purchase books for Penn's library.

Lastly, Ms. Leigh described the annual 4th grade field trip to Naper Settlement in Naperville, IL. Students from Penn and students from Prospect School meet at Naper Settlement, which provides a chance to meet their "Sister School" friends. Overall, it has been a successful experience for all.

Committee members thanked Ms. Leigh and the Prospect School families for the presentation and complimented them on their successful partnership with Penn School. They discussed how important this work is and how students benefit from this type of philanthropic work. Several of the other D181 schools expressed interest in participating in this type of work at their schools.

Old Business

STEAM Labs and Tech-Related Purchases (Continued Discussion from 1/8/18)

Board President Jennifer Burns thanked Dr. White and Interim Assistant Superintendent of Learning (C&I) Joan Woolwine for their support and leadership regarding the STEAM Labs and related purchases.

Ms. Woolwine noted the Department of Learning and Administration's appreciation for the PTO and D181 Foundation's support. She shared that she met with a team of Principals in January and discussed the objectives and the importance of integrating a STEAM Lab into the curriculum, rather than a stand-alone room where students visit during the day. She also stressed that STEAM should also be part of the Arts curriculum.

The team is scheduled to review programs from several companies: Tinker Works, FUSE, and Creative Learning. She also shared that they would try and connect with at least one other company. On February 20, 2018 the team is scheduled to hear presentations from the three companies. Again, Ms. Woolwine noted that importance of STEAM Labs being integrated throughout the student's day and aligned within the curriculum and standards. Presenters will be asked to share all their ideas and include the cost.

Ms. Woolwine also met with the MRC Directors and discussed their key role and anticipated support of the STEAM Labs initiative. The MRC Directors will be reviewing the various programs on the March 2 Institute Day. They will be looking for a program that is "teacher friendly" and compliments the program currently available at the middle school (FUSE). Per a question, Ms. Woolwine confirmed that the Middle School principals were involved in the conversation. Ms. Woolwine also confirmed that the scope of review is primarily for the elementary school level as middle school is already involved with FUSE.

Per a question, Dr. White shared that the District wants to confirm the base cost of the programs and then determine if the District can fund the initiative, or if financial assistance is needed. He also commented on the

pending \$1.5 million deficit. He shared that it was likely that there is enough space in the schools for the STEAM Labs.

A parent noted a concern regarding the MRC Directors being properly trained for STEAM Labs. Jen Berringer commented that CHMS is planning on sending teachers to Northwestern University over the summer to be trained in the FUSE program. It was noted that CHMS would include Joan Woolwine on any such plans so that the Department of Learning is able to ensure consistency between the two middle schools. Parents commented that FUSE offers several different types of training. Dr. White remarked that the District would need to rely on the partnership with the company for training, etc.

Superintendent Search Update

Ms. Burns said BWP shared there were over 30 applicants in the superintendent search. She met with BWP and screened nine candidates. Six candidates were interviewed by the Board of Education on January 21, 2018. Three candidates met with a representative stakeholder group and the Board of Education on January 27. Then the full Board met on January 28, 2018. Two candidates were invited back to meet with the Board on February 4. The Board is progressing as quickly as possible and the goal is to approve a new hire at the February 26 Board meeting.

Other

- Dr. White shared that Communications Consultant Ms. Faith Behr, will be assisting the District for approximately two weeks following the resignation of Bridget McGuiggan. He will then recommend that the Board approve the hiring of a full-time interim consultant.
- Student Information Specialist Stephanie Gardner highlighted the dates for 2018-19 registration. They discussed the PTOs needing to decide whether they want to move forward with SchoolPay by March 1. Ms. Gardner indicated that she would be providing training for the PTOs on SchoolPay and invited all to attend. She also agreed to provide training to incoming PTO treasurers. Lastly, Ms. Gardner said she would send the PTOs information on other Districts that use SchoolPay.
- Dr. White shared that Director of Facilities Mike Duggan would be leading the Safety & Crisis Committee and highlighted the information shared on the procedures for the District Visitor Management system.
- Jennifer Burns shared that the Board and administration would be discussing the approximate \$1.5 million deficit for 2018-19 at the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for February 6.
- Jennifer Burns shared that Board member Marty Turek is leading a sub-committee to work on the approximately \$500,000 needed for technology at the new HMS. Dr. White commented that he has a high level of confidence that this issue would be resolved.
- Jennifer Burns noted that placement criteria would be discussed at the Board meeting on February 12. Ms. Woolwine shared that families will have more flexibility this year if their student qualifies for the Summer Bridge Program, as it will be offered online. Per a request, Ms. Woolwine agreed that the DOL could work on developing some "summer packets" for students.
- Monroe PTO representatives followed up on the initiative to include a "pronunciation field" in Skyward during the registration process. The idea originated from discussions held last year with Principal Justin Horne and the Monroe School Cultural Awareness Committee. Student Information Specialist Stephanie Gardner indicated she would research this topic and report back to the PTOs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.