

Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council (SLAC)

September 16, 2024

6:30 p.m. – via ZOOM



AGENDA

Attendees Present:

- Superintendent Dr. Robin Felty
- Substitute Secretary Shannon Zimmerman
- Guests: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Dale Reimann
Director of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Sharon Schaefer
- SLAC Members:

HS

1. Melanie Allen
2. Jill Speizer
3. Anne Marie Swinehart

MS

1. Jackie Wachinski
2. Meghan Ryan-Keller
3. Alex Massie
4. Janny Kim Lee

Landis Run

1. Shannon Zimmerman
2. Cindy Ferris
3. Melissa Grosh

Brecht

1. Landon Detweiler
2. Michael King

Bucher

1. Libby Muehlbach
2. Katy Miller
3. Soraya Hintz

Neff

1. Rachel Levine
2. Kisha Johnson

Nitrauer

1. Allie Hardy
2. Karin Gemade
3. Danielle Schmehl

Reidenbaugh

1. Vivian Montoya
2. Jessie Styers

Schaeffer

1. Jennifer Spatz
2. Michelle Frisby
3. Adam Hosey

Members Absent: Melanie Allen (High School), Laura Boniello (High School), Sharee Livingston-Anderson (High School), Marie Dennis (LRIS), Abby Fiorentino (Brecht), Lori DeTemple (Neff), Madison South (Reidenbaugh)

Meeting Agenda & Minutes

- ❖ Welcome and Introductions
- ❖ Approval of May 2024 Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Sharing of SLAC Information with PTOs/Parent Advisory Group
 - Role of SLAC members: serve as a conduit of information back and forth between SLAC and PTO

Suggestion: Regardless of PTO meeting date, be in touch with PTO and share SLAC meeting date; Ask PTO to send a communication and get questions in time for SLAC Meeting
- ❖ New Business
 - Co-Secretaries will stay together and share responsibility; no one else expressed interest in this role
 - Dr. Felty asked for SLAC Chair - talk about topics; serve as sounding board; "go to" person for preparation; get meeting started and welcome
 - Soraya stepped forward; Motion approved
- ❖ Volunteers & Clearances (Dr. Dale Reimann)
 - Visitors - adults who are never left alone with kids (always supervised by staff members); like when they have clearances but don't require; Have an express purpose (ie. - presentation, reading); clearances not required in this capacity
 - Volunteer - adult who comes more frequently; work with students directly/one-on-one and might not be supervised directly by MTSD staff

member (such as math facts or room parent, extracurricular role);
clearances required

- Both are welcome and serve different functions
- This serves K-12 and has been reviewed with principals to institute in the building.
- If something is unclear in a specific school/visit, please communicate with the school principal. You are welcome to share this conversation as common understanding.
- Clearances have a different life span. Act 24 is annual. Child Abuse, State Police, and FBI is 5 years.
- Dr. Reimann will check in with principals on Act 24 notifications. PTO may be able to assist by providing the Act 24 form at the first meeting of the year and having parent volunteers sign and return to principal.
- Parents should track their own clearance lifespan. If you plan to volunteer throughout the school year, check on your clearances now/ahead of time and make sure they are up-to-date.
- PTO can give list of volunteers to school office to check that everyone who is scheduled to volunteer has up-to-date clearances (24-36 hours in advance). Chairperson/Volunteer Coordinator role prior to the event.

❖ PTO Sharing – Reflections & Questions

- **Parent communication**
 - Communications managed on a case-by-case basis - based on specific circumstances, investigations, who was impacted (bus, classroom, school)
 - Will never be able to share information about student discipline
 - Communication tool may depend on timeliness - phone call, email (via Sapphire)
 - Parents can reach out directly to the principal if there is a specific communication issue. For example, if student says that something occurred, and families did not receive a communication about it
- **iPad/screen time policy**
 - **iPad guidelines** on website (for use of electronic devices - classroom and home); Teachers asked to review annually
 - iPad rewards (screen time) questions should be directed to the individual teacher; May not be a reward but a menu of exercises the student can choose. If concern is not addressed, also ask the principal where they can visit the classroom and see what is actually occurring.
 - Teachers are charged to balance the use of screen time in the classroom. Online and offline experiences. Part of the plan for the instructional day and the learning activity - the teacher should be intentional about the design.

- Dr. Schaefer will ask principals to include this information in their next newsletters as a good resource for families.
 - **YouTube filters** - internet traffic sent through MDBR (Malicious Domain Block Reporting) for filtering; device at home subject to same monitoring; MTSD uses strict filtering setting for all student and employee devices to ensure student safety as a top priority; Over 500 hours of new content is uploaded to YouTube every minute - while we have excellent tools in place, it is inevitable that a video may slip through the cracks momentarily (becomes flagged as inappropriate and blocked in moments); Specific channels or videos allowed by request on a case-by-case basis
 - Age-appropriate digital literacy is part of library program and MTSD is also implementing lessons during morning meetings; it is an expanding area.
- **Calculators at secondary level**
 - Good news is that our iPads have a Desmos calculator on them that is used for state assessments (web-based and as an app)
 - Need students to know how to use them and become literate and fluent with the tool
 - No need for parent to purchase calculator
 - Teachers can check out a class set if needed
 - Communication will continue (repeated messages) as district does not want families to feel they need to purchase something or do not have the needed tools
- **Phone-free policy**
 - More restricted access for students but we are not locking up phones
 - District has been working with teachers to implement more restricted strategies
 - MTSD current area of focus is not to be phone free but to teach responsible and appropriate use
 - Principals feeling positive about where we are with firm approaches and compliance
 - Students and teachers should be using iPads as learning tools/devices, not individual student devices.
- **Donated books**
 - MTSD does not have capacity to accept donated books (vet/preview). If PTO is choosing to accept donated books, parents must be present with student to review book ("Book Nook"). 4 schools have been doing this and it has been well received. Scholastic Book Fair is a vendor, and parents have access to review and help students make book choices.

- **North Star** & making school activities inclusive of all cultures and backgrounds
 - Must be intentional about our various school events (i.e. - International Night) honoring different cultures; PTOs have been creating activities at school level to truly show our North Star. Desire to perhaps combine schools into one larger Multicultural Event.
- **Dr. Felty Retirement** - retiring December 2024. There will be transparent updates about the process. Dr. Reimann will be the proposed Acting Interim Superintendent that is being recommended for approval by the School Board in October. After the School Board approves the Acting Superintendent contract in October, they will start the process of searching for the next Superintendent. A retired administrator may come on board to help with Assistant Superintendent duties.
- ***EVERYONE expressed that Dr. Felty should NEVER leave the district; however, she did not listen to us and still plans to exit in December. Congratulations, Dr. Felty!! You will be so incredibly missed!***

Mission Statement

Nurture and challenge for success.

North Star



To create a welcoming and supportive environment where all students, staff and families feel a sense of belonging