

**Walnut Hills High School
LSDMC Meeting Minutes DRAFT
February 18, 2021**

Attendance: John Chambers, Jessica Smitson, Ashley Morgan, Lisa Brokamp, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Judy Neff, Sylvia Nelson, Laura Stith Deck, Monica Mitchell, Melanie Mitchell, Dillon Vorherr, Terrence Poole

Guests: Brian Wade, Steve Simon, Olga, Emma Massie, H, Carlyn

Not in attendance: Brad Smith,

- **Call to order**
- **Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes**
 - Richard Graeter, move to accept minutes as distributed, seconded by Francesca Bownas-Rayburn
- **Parent comments to LSDMC re instructional plans
(limited to three speakers, 2 minutes each, per LSDMC Bylaws)**
 - [Parent Letter to LSDMC 02.17.21](#)
 - Steve Simon, Parent
 - We've always known that Walnut was exceptional and with a 6-1 decision to return made in January, and a 5-2 decision made last week to remain remote was made. Staff should be fully vaccinated by the second week of March.
 - There are parents who would like to see their children back in school.
 - Live-streaming is surely an option (Brian Wade) will speak to this
 - Dollars are not out of reach, we can privately fundraise
 - For new students and seniors it would be nice for them to be able to walk the halls at Walnut
 - Please let the District Leadership team know that parents are concerned and would like their proposal authorized by the LSDMC tonight to be shared as early as tomorrow.
 - Parents would like to send out a survey. It is professional, but it must be sent out by the school.
 - Richard Graeter, why can't this come from the Parent Association?
 - We need to know exactly how many families would like to return to in-person learning and those that would prefer to stay remote
 - Winton Woods, an urban school district, has figured it out
 - Geared toward remote students (primary instruction) and remainder of the day to in-person instruction
 - Different experiences with each student regarding remote learning, but they all have something in common, they are all isolated. Students are struggling and parents are asking for urgent attention.
 - Brian Wade, Parent
 - Two options
 - Board states the main issue is the bandwidth at Walnut and that the bandwidth cannot support every classroom sending out Google Meets
 - Verizon Wireless and Cinti Bell have offered solutions.
 - Jetpack from VW will be placed into each classroom: teacher and students log into the jetpack and this will be completely independent of the broadband
 - Cost 150 devices, initial cost \$7,500; \$6,750 monthly fees
 - Deliver within 2 weeks

- Cinti Bell solution: \$20,000, \$250 monthly fees
 - Deliver within 30 days
 - Lisa Brokamp: as a teacher, is there an answer for live-streaming. What about our students that don't have the best service? We need to ensure all of our students have the same wireless service/capabilities and not feel forced to attend in-person so they can get the instruction without interruption.
 - Brian Wade: There is no answer, but he thinks it may be an issue with the CPS laptops. The wireless service can be an issue, but with the jetpack it should be the same as it is now with current streaming.
 - What Clark is doing? No extra equipment being brought in. The laptops will be set up as usual and the teacher will teach to the students attending in-person. This will "catch the lesson" for those who are remote.
 - Olga:
 - Many students cannot take this any more and she requests we look at the various constituents to come together and open Walnut Hills.
 - Have teachers been surveyed?
 - Per the district there were three options. If a teacher was considering not returning if we report back for in-person teaching, from the the initial survey sent out by Human Resources we had 19 teachers who were not comfortable returning
- **Principal's report**
 - 23 National Merit Finalists this year!
 - Seniors recognized for their PSAT scores from last year.
 - Our students have worked hard to continue reaching this level of excellence
 - Working on plans to bring in small groups of our 7th graders and new students to become acquainted with the building
 - Orientation program is being developed
 - Working with District Leadership on what graduation and prom will look like this year.
 - Administrators met with District Leadership today to discuss possibilities for a return to school. No decisions have been made, but we discussed various ideas.
 - We are able to give input, but ultimately it is the decision of the District Leadership to decide on our return to school plan
 - This is not being taken lightly
 - We must be safe and stick with the District's Safety Plan
 - We are working to get the kids into the building safely
 - Sylvia Nelson: How many rising 7th graders do we have enrolled now for next year?
 - Mr. Chambers: 132 7th graders.
 - There was a test session this last Saturday and we have two more coming up
 - Are the numbers low because of the ratios who have taken the test or is it because not all of those that have tested and passed have enrolled?
 - Not all 6th graders have taken the test: only 40-50% of CPS 6th graders have taken the test at this point
 - These numbers (132) are CPS students
 - Projected enrollment for next year?
 - Probably between 2750-2850
 - Still at about 64 who have unenrolled this school year?
 - At about 75, some were open enrollment and returned to their neighborhood schools and transfers (within district)

- The idea to get 7th graders in the building? Is this a plan or just a discussion?
 - The in-person orientation is in anticipation of our students coming back this year or just in general, or in preparation for next year.
 - The plan is to get them in regardless of our return date
- What is the plan to get Walnut Hills back into school 5 days a week?
 - This is a District Leadership discussion and decision.
 - There have been multiple options discussed and it is dependent upon the District Leadership team's decision
- There is a group of parents who really want to help. Who is the decision maker and how can we help? Or is there help that can be given?
 - Mr. Chambers will talk with his direct District Leadership Team (Highschool) and make introductions of the parents who presented tonight to his team leaders.
 - The school itself cannot endorse a survey unless it is approved by the District Public Affairs, Krista Boyle.
- **ILT Report**
 - PBIS, in the anticipation of our blended return proposed a PBIS blended matrix and schedule, both of which were approved.
 - Altered weekly schedule due to the ACT for next week was approved
 - What scheduling will look like next year, potentially looking at a modified block schedule (which will help with number of students in the building)
- **Student Report**
 - Playing a waiting game.
 - Juniors plan prom as a gift to seniors and so it is difficult to plan.
 - What do we do to get something proposed?
 - Meet with Mr. Chambers?
 - Yes, and he will share with District Leadership and the other HS Principals
 - It is a senior only prom proposal
 - Students are fearing missing a day, which is 50% of their instructional time.
 - If asynchronous is available that would be great
 - Senior Student Government Meeting talked about a Senior Dinner Dance
 - Mr. Simon and Mr. Wade made a great point that we need better bandwidth...period. What if a student is quarantined? How will they attend school? This is a good proposition, whether it's now or later this year there needs to be a change
- **Parent Report**
 - Sylvia Nelson: What needs to be true for Steve and Brian's proposal to make it to the District Leadership team? Mr. Chambers will make the introductions to Shauna Murphy.
 - It would be best if the details are shared by the parents because it is their proposal.
 - Judy Neff: Announcement in one of the next Eagle Flyers, the Parent Equity Group will have a first meeting on March 9
- **Community Report**
 - Laura Stith Deck: Some concern about the publicity that Walnut Hills is getting, but is not our fault. We need to mitigate the communication.
- **Old Business**
 - None
- **New Business**
 - Terrence Poole: We are Cincinnati Public school and it is a Board decision on what happens.

- Gathering more information would be helpful and if a survey were to come out from the Parent Association that would be good, with Public Affairs approval
 - Will give us a good picture of what the reality will be if we return blended
- It is important to be clear with a survey, including details about what the instructional program will be upon a return, not just who would choose to return or stay remote
- Prudent to get approval from Public Affairs office
- We need to be open that we will have diverse opinions with the survey results, but we need a "go for it" plan
- Dillon Vorherr: We need dates so we can act quickly.
- Terrence will make contact with the Alumni Association to see if they would be willing to offset some of the cost.
- Melanie Mitchell: What about the money the Junior class has raised, can we use that money?
 - Student Activity Funds must be used for Student Activities and not for purchasing items.
- **Adjournment**
 - Motion to adjourn made by John Chambers and seconded by Ashley Morgan
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm

Attachments:

[Parent Letter to LSDMC 02.17.21](#)