Community Council Meeting

Minutes – 2.10.2023

* **In Attendance:** Jordan Yospe, Jessi Follett, Jessica Sims, Jessica Kelemen, Brian Nash, Shauna Smith, Wendy Fuja, Jessica Sims, Parker Huber
* **Approved previous meetings minutes**
* **Steering Committee Update – French Immersion**
	+ Jessica/Wendy from Council, and English/French teacher from each school (Foxboro/Odyssey), as well as several district representatives
	+ Met last Friday to discuss timeline as a Steering Committee, discussed an expedited timeline potentially and district needs to look at if they are going to speed up the timeline due to losing 4 French teachers next year (visas expiring, one that can’t afford college tuition for kids, and one that is leaving for personal reasons)
	+ French teachers for both schools are already wondering what attrition will look like with losing 4 teachers
	+ Looking at benefits of combining them, effects on diversity, how it would affect transportation and how that would be funded, etc.
	+ They are doing a legitimate study and there is no decision that has been made yet
	+ Putting together a survey to go to all parents in the two schools to understand the factors – focused on thoughts on the location of the program, if it moved would you continue to keep your kids in immersion, what are the benefits/drawbacks of immersion (going to all parents)
	+ Challenges of immersion school this size
		- Challenges are the class sizes (funded at 26.85 students per teacher by legislature) – ends up causing splits, abnormal rotations, etc.
		- Students end up with same group of kids through 6th grade, sometimes causing challenges with finding the best learning environment for the student
		- District has spent $5-7M in “overstaffing” the two schools to accommodate the two programs
	+ Some concerns about overpopulation of school if they move French exclusively to Odyssey
		- Staffing per student won’t change, always remains the same
		- Odyssey built for 800-900 students, but growth hasn’t happened yet (have space in the building right now, using some space for speech, etc.)
		- Part of the survey/study is to understand the inflow/outflow of students to each school; For example, understanding how many of Foxboro French students would come over (essentially everything is on the table right now)
		- Originally discussed moving it all to Foxboro, then back to Odyssey, but are trying to slow down and understand what the parents want
		- If all Foxboro French students came to Odyssey, Foxboro would then be 40% reduced lunch which would make them a title 1 school
		- There are 16 students in 1st grade classes, which puts burden on other classes (number should be 22 or so)
	+ No discussion of not offering French at all at either school
	+ Some concerns about how bringing Foxboro population to Odyssey will affect any behavioral issues, etc.
	+ Steering committee will make a recommendation, but ultimately the superintendent will make the final decision
	+ Will know in next week or two if superintendent will approve speeding up the study or not (which would affect budgets, etc.) – Would need to have a decision by April 1 to make any changes (which would cause trickledown of budgeting, etc. for next year)
	+ Discussion on estimated FTE and proposed class sizes and effect of combining programs; Also discussed competency-based approaches to avoid class splits (below illustration); Lower grades is much harder to do splits with



* + **Next Steps**
		- Principal Nash and others on Steering Committee to keep Community Council updated on current state

**Fundraiser Discussion**

* Losing some funding next year, and technology is going up in price. Below is the goal for the fundraiser as a community council and below are what those funds would go to:



* All devices are on a 5 year rotation
* **Next Steps**
	+ Ensure fundraising is an agenda item for the next meeting to brainstorm ideas