

PFO General Meeting February 2, 2018

Number in attendance: 25

1. REAP Farm to School presentation with Marissa Silverberg

- a. REAP provides healthy snacks in the classroom through Farm to School
- b. Also provides education about foods to the students
- c. Worked with the school district to install a garden bar at Leopold during lunchtime
- d. Summer meals program
 - i. Provides free lunch to kids throughout the summer
 - ii. Need help with promoting the program to increase attendance
 - iii. A survey will be sent out in the next PFO newsletter
- e. REAP website for more information: <http://reapfoodgroup.org/farm-to-school/>

2. Q&A with Kate Toews, MMSD Board of Education, Seat 6

- a. Introduction
 - i. Kate is Leopold's liaison on the school board
 - ii. The school board can be emailed. They don't get many emails from individuals, mostly from coordinated groups, so it does make an impact when you send them emails. They welcome input and questions from everyone.
 1. You can email all seven board members at board@madison.k12.wi.us
 - iii. Role of the board
 1. Manage and approve the budget
 2. Write and approve policies
 3. Hire and supervise the superintendent
 - iv. Kate is available via email/phone anytime.
 1. ketoews@madison.k12.wi.us or call/text (510) 301-3296
- b. Question/Answers
 - i. *What went into the decision the change DLI from 50/50 to 90/10?*
 1. This change happened prior to Kate joining the board so she is not as familiar with the background on the decision
 - ii. *With the change to a 50/50 DLI model, the Spanish standards didn't change, but the English standards were added on. This additional content and testing seems overwhelming for the kindergarteners.*
 1. This is true. Currently, state mandated testing is done via PALS and is only in Spanish for consistency with prior years and so that students don't have test in both languages.
 2. Other tests are in English such as oral proficiency. They are local assessments for the district and to guide teacher curriculum
 3. District is currently using PALS for testing K readiness. School board is currently looking at other tools/tests.
 4. Kate will take this feedback to the board.
 - iii. *When does the board meet? How can we find out about agendas, etc?*

1. Information about the Board of Education can be found on the MMSD website at <https://board.madison.k12.wi.us/> (English) or <https://board.madison.k12.wi.us/junta-de-educacion> (Spanish)
 2. The board meets 3 Mondays a month in the evening. One is a voting meeting. The other 2 are workgroups where more discussion takes place.
 3. Date, times, agendas are the website. You can find it through the MMSD website. All are open to the public.
 - a. Calendar: <https://board.madison.k12.wi.us/calendar>
 - b. Meeting agendas: <https://www.boarddocs.com/wi/mmsd/Board.nsf/Public>
 4. Meetings are also streamed live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/madisonboardofed/live>
 5. There are public comment sessions
 - a. Not that many people come so it does make a difference when people come and speak.
 - b. You have to be there by the time the meeting starts and you have 3 minutes to speak
 6. Translation is available for all meetings by request.
 7. Upcoming topics: pathways, staff compensation, budget, middle school start times, etc
- iv. *Is there any discussion of another elementary school in the area to reduce the size of Leopold?*
1. The School Board recognizes that Leopold has size/facility challenges. The long term facilities plan is under discussion. Lots of moving pieces still. Expecting growth in the far west side and far north east side.
 2. Several areas, such as kids in the Allied Dr area, are bussed to other locations right now. Most discussion is around working to reduce the number of kids who are bussed outside their local area.
 3. Several options have been discussed, but nothing has been decided yet.
- v. *Leopold was given the same resources/funding as Mendota for the Community School program despite being a much larger school. Why were resources allocated in this way and what is the plan for future sustainability?*
1. Most of Allocations of funds are based on needs and size is incorporated. Kate can take that feedback back to the board.
 2. There is grant money for the Community School program that will help with future sustainability. The district is planning to expand to other schools.
- vi. *Allocation of resources does not seem equitable for Leopold compared to other schools. This includes interventionists, advanced learning, custodians, etc. All schools have 0.5 FTE allocation for interventionists for struggling students despite size. Karine spends extra Title 1 resources above this due to size of Leopold. How are decisions about allocation of resources made?*
1. Kate acknowledges that the allocation system in the district could be improved
 2. Some changes this year, less withholding of special ed funds at the beginning of the school year. Typically funds are held until more is known about specific

needs at each school. But this has led to a lack of resources when they are needed.

3. There are several small schools in the district which still need and have full staffs, i.e. a full time principal, custodian, etc. But the size discrepancies create challenges in allocation.

- a. Kate is advocating for multi-age classrooms at some of the smaller schools as one solution to help with allocation of resources.

vii. *Is there talk about supporting teachers more with the testing they are required to do?*

1. We do a lot of district mandated (not state mandated) testing. Easiest way to help with this is to reduce testing. However, people want information and this is the way to get it.
2. There is disagreement on the board about reducing the amount of testing done in classrooms
3. We need some testing for accountability and understanding, but Kate feels that some testing could be taken away.

viii. *Is there talk of making 4K mandatory?*

1. No, but there is talk about making it full day.
2. Would likely be piloted in a few schools first.
3. Curriculum would need to evolve for this.
4. MMSD doesn't get full state funding for 4K students so district would need to invest their own funds into it.

ix. *What are some budget changes being discussed?*

1. The district is hoping to absorb some of the increased costs in benefits
2. Cross Categorical and bilingual teachers – talking about a small annual bonus for these teachers since there is a shortage and it's hard to hire & retain these types of teachers
3. Now is a good time to talk to the board about budget issues and ideas for spending

x. *Wellness policy – will be addressed by the board this spring*

1. Discussion about this coming in the spring with the school board
2. Includes recess, food, etc
3. Send your questions/thoughts about this to Kate