

Alcott Parent Teacher Group Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2016

Present:

C. O'Brien	Twito	T. Morano	C. Dreyer	H. Webster
H. Park	T. Jordan	E. Sulcharsky	K. Tyson	B. Vause
D. Johnson	J. Baldini	C. Driscoll	J. Monaghan	J. Kamionek
L. Crowell	K. Tyson	L. Crowell	J. Peachey	

Honored Guest: Superintendent Diane Rigby
School Staff Liaison: John Peachey
Principal: Sharon Young

Opening and Introduction: Heidi Webster

The minutes of the Sept. 7, 2016 meeting were approved.

SHOUTS- OUT TO....

Jennifer Monaghan for running the Parent Room meeting.

Tressa Jordan and Sorrel Sammons for hosting the New Parent Coffee, which had a great turn-out.

Kate Ramirez for handling the treasurer duties.

Twito for maintaining web page.

Jennifer Kamionek for silent auction coordination and AlcottWear and hats.

Geidre Mickeviciute for finishing the Alcott Directory.

Krissy Tyson for expediting the Owl.

Jessica Lambert for coordinating library volunteers and school picture day.

Lynn Morel for coordinating the PAL program.

Parents who helped out Back-to-School Night..

Cheryl D, Liz C. , Twito, Carrie, M, Jen K., Tracey M, Cheri D, and Dan R. for help in set-up, clean-up, auction, catering, food, raffle, etc. for the Parent Social.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rigby congratulated Alcott School, which was named a Commended School on the 2016 PARCC by the DESE for high achievement and student growth between years.

Superintendent Rigby attributed these gains to differentiated instruction and true care/love of students by all staff.

Alcott has an enrollment of 466. For large classes, Alcott has more tutors at those grade levels to support students and the RTI goals of the district.

The high school is holding at about 1278.

Capital Projects: A feasibility/planning committee is starting to look at the large, looming question about the middle school and maintaining/sustaining the two-school facility. The question is whether to maintain/ sustain the two school buildings. Superintendent Rigby is looking for design, architect, and other professionals within the parent community to participate on a committee to explore building feasibility issues.

The CCPS are working with Concord Ed Fund and MIT to build a STEAM lab for field trips to engage students in challenges that are related to science curriculum and project-based learning. This space would also provide training for teachers in the use of tools, etc. The STEAM lab will be for K-5 to start. Middle School and high school kids might assist. The lab will also provide space for after-school workshops, especially in multi-disciplinary work.

Everyday Math has been initiated. Professional Development time on Tuesdays is feeding this program. There is a new technology component to this initiative. The energy in developing and administrating this program is assisting kids at all different levels to have access to the same content

Alcott has a few maintenance projects looming, despite its overall good condition. Examples are paintings and stair work.

Hazard, Young, and Atia search firm is helping the CC School Committee recruit superintendent candidates. A screening committee will then interview to get to 3-5 candidates. These will be forwarded to the school committee.

There will be community focus groups with the search committee as they develop a leadership development profile. There will be forms at different times of day, to accommodate all families, as well as on-line surveys. . Everyone will be able to participate to give feed-back on the profile. When the top candidates are selected, there will be an open forum. The School Committee will send out communications. Screening committee is 12-15 people. No internal candidates are anticipated for the superintendent position. One K-8 parent will be on the Screening Committee for Superintendent. Information is available on CCPS website.

The “Admin Team” will support new superintendent on the ground starting in July.

A question was raised about middle school principal. There isn’t a clear decision yet about hiring a new principal or keeping the interim.

The new high school principal is enthusiastic and students, faculty, and parents seem to like him. There is a lot of “joy” in his personality/presentation, which has been appreciated by all.

The committee on later start time for the high school is working hard. The algorithm involves working three tiers of buses that are town-owned, covering 44 square miles, and coordinating the different K-8 and 9-12 state-required instructional hours. . The committee is working for 8:00. start time for high school with a 2:41 dismissal. The bus variations will be examined. This will cost \$; hence, the community will have to support it.

Some psychological/social upcoming community events: There is a sleep panel, a screening of the film “Screenagers” Monday Oct. 24th and a second screening TBA, as well as a screening of “If Only”, a film about Opioid Use. Check the School District Website for updates with times and schedules.

Budget: CPS and CCHS budgets. Superintendent Rigby has asked for increase (3.4%) for three elementary Spanish teachers. This has been put in the budget as a “place-holder.” There is also interest in including Latin at Middle School, which may help students who struggle with language-learning to develop basic language-learning skills. The next challenge is figuring it out in the parameters of the school schedule.

OLD BUSINESS - None This Month

NEW BUSINESS

Parent Social (Heidi Webster) \$3900 raised at the Parent Social, the most ever raised. The name tag anonymity was helpful. Sports ticket auction items raised the most money.

Owl Update (Krissy Tyson)

Communication is our theme this year. The goal is to make the Owl user-friendly so all parents can access a streamlined calendar of new news/events, repeated events. There is also a dedicated space for volunteers.

Krissy reiterated that “blasts” are less effective than having a “stream-lined “Owl that is published once a week. .

Monster Mash. (Claire O’Brien). 6:30 to 8:30 10/28 . Volunteers Needed! ½ hour slots available. The posting will come out 10/6 for volunteers on Sign-Up Genius. Hayride is anticipated! Flyers will be in kids’ backpacks. Please volunteer!

Workshops are off to a good start. Morning games with Ms. Fall had to be canceled.

School and family photos forms will go out next week. They are also on the Owl.

Fundraising (J. Kamionek). 20% has been made already for the year’s Annual Appeal. Owl Blast for annual appeal only suggested in October. Also suggested, the addition of photos so people can see the programs in action in the Owl.

Charleston Wrap is due Friday, 10/7. You can always order from Charleston Wrap during the year with the school code.

Lost and Found (Claire O’Brien) Mudge and Basmanian are trying to sift out items with a name. New bins and labels will help organize the items. Room parents might remind parents to label jackets, water bottles, etc. Students should be reminded there is a Lost and Found.

Next Meeting: Wed. November 2, 2016 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room – All are invited.