

Parent Advisory Council Minutes, November 3, 2016

- Rachele Selvig was absent; Jennifer Roberts called the meeting to order
- Andrea Burman made a motion to approve October's minutes; Carrie Bernhart seconded; minutes were approved.
 - *In attendance:* Trish Evens, Susan Zottola, Ryan Thompson, Barret Sale, Todd Bloomquist, Kelly Robinson, Kyndale Rhoades, Jennifer Roberts, Andrea Burman, Carrie Bernhart, Beth Law, Cynthia Greenberg, Kerry Alderson; *Absent:* Steve Monroe, Micara Anderson, Rachele Selvig
- Trish spoke about the realignment of the Early Childhood Development class taught by Ashley Gerard at GPHS. The proposed changes would take effect for the 2017-2018 school year. They are looking to revisit, revise and update the course. It will be renamed to Early Childhood Education (ECE), with a more direct focus on content. It will add one additional class with one additional college credit. Essentially it will take the current Child Development 1 and split it into two classes; Children and Families and Child Psychology. It will also change the current class names to be more in line with Early Childhood Education. Ms. Gerard received a grant that she hopes to use to replace the old mechanical babies and possibly purchase a pregnancy suit for students to wear. She feels it will be a richer, more real experience for them. She also asked to possibly be included in the high schools wellness program, since the topics they teach are in line with one another.
- Trish introduced Rachele Watson who came down from the high school to talk about the book Unwind for freshman reading. She wants to introduce it to her basic reading classes in hopes it will help students who struggle to read, find that love of reading. Rachel spoke about the successes she had with the book at her previous school. She said it was a huge hit with the kids. She is looking to get the book approved by the council.
- Jenn introduced visitor Todd Bloomquist who came to share information on the ACE's program. ACE's stands for "Adverse Childhood Experiences". He talked about how those adverse experiences often send kids into a flight, fight or freeze mentality. Todd mentioned that environment plays a huge roll in this. He spoke about how from the ages 0-6 years, 90% of our brains are developed, leaving 10% left to develop over the course of our lives. Abuse and neglect change the brain development severely. An interesting fact is that he told us ADD can be passed genetically, but often times, it is a response from the child's environment. Todd will be doing a training with middle school and high school staff on November 23, 2016. They will be viewing the movie "Paper Tigers". He said he is willing to do 1 ½ hour trainings for parents, PTA's and the School Board.
- Todd spoke about the CLEAR Project, which stands for Collaborative Learning for Education Achievement and Resiliency. Lincoln Elementary is piloting the CLEAR Project this year. Todd said that Lincoln is receiving one hour of training/coaching, once a month. He spoke about our partnership with KAIROS, AllCare and other community partners, for fundraising. Todd said it is very expensive, but is not funded by the school district, but rather with grants and community dollars.
- Todd gave out a couple handouts about what our SPED department offers @District 7. There are 700 out of the 6,000 students district wide, enrolled in the SPED program. The state only covers the cost for 11% of total students. Currently our enrollment is at 11.6% that means that .6% is funded by district funds. Our Life Skills program is the most expensive program mainly due to the staffing that is required for the class.
- Trish touched on attendance issues and how it effects our overall school outcomes. Over 21% of District 7 students are chronically absent. She spoke about reaching out to the families whose kids are chronically absent and finding out the "why" and if there is anything we can do to help. Trish talked about getting to the root cause of the chronic absences and that each case is individual and situational. She stated that it is a community issue, not just a school district issue and that often times there is a lack of value for education. Hopes are that the community can gather around the school district to improve the attendance issue.
- *Action Items:* Kelly Robinson made a motion to approve the changes to the ECD program for next year; Andrea Burman seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
- Carrie Bernhart made a motion to approve the Unwind book; Kelly Robinson seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
- Next meeting Thursday, January 5th at 9 am. Happy Holidays!

