

Hilliard Crossing PTO Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2023 7pm at Hilliard Crossing Media Center

Erica Called meeting to order

Participants: Erica Dittoe, Katie Meyer, D'Jovana Carro, Amy Welling, Eryn Gilson, Naheda Ramadan, Heba Benomran, Nikki Hursh, Mindy Babcock, Kayla Pinnick, Jessica Anderson, Erin Brandon, Josh Brandon, Ryan Taylor, Emily Sayer, Maria Garcia, Donna Rzepka, Superintendent David Stuart

Erica called meeting to order.

Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Stuart present at the meeting addressing the group, states he is very grateful for the time from parents and teachers give to support Crossing and it is very much appreciated. He shared information about Hilliard Strategic planning process. The district just wrapped up strategic planning first phase, called Portrait of a Learner. The district brought in about 300 members of community including: business owners, parents, teachers, board members, policy makers. There was a four meeting process that discussed what are the other competencies that make a well-rounded learner. The group landed on six different competencies. They will be discussing these with teachers and what each competency looks like specific to each grade. District is now transitioning into strategic planning/operational part, which is more of an internal process. This will take us into next school year and will be talking about is: over the next 5-7 years what is the district going to do to make sure the students have the experience they want them to have.

The other process going on in the district is the Master Facility Planning process. There are 30 different facilities within the district portfolio including: schools, transportation garage, central office, stadium etc. The net worth of the portfolio is around \$700 million with a \$5 million yearly budget to maintain all of it. The budget is not sustainable over long term and need to think what are the priorities over the next 15-20 years. The district has brought another community group together to look at each facility and costs to improve and repair. There is a wide range of buildings within the district as far age, ex: buildings like Memorial Middle School couple of years old to one like Beacon Elementary which is 50-60 years old. Average age of building in the district is 35years old. This group will make prioritized recommendations of what they hope the boards priorities will be over the next few years. The board will then determine how far down the list we can get. That process should wrap up around beginning of 2024. The board could be looking at possibility of bond or levy to make then in November 2024.

District to revise curriculum English LA, Health Board to approve next Monday and just kicked off mathematics curriculum review. Push to really look at math program k-5. There may be some significant changes to math in the next few years. The process starts with survey to parents, then when curriculum is done there is a presentation to the board then place for parents to give their reactions.

Superintendent Stuart opened the floor for questions from the group. Question regarding facility improvement was asked regarding who was in the group and if they were a part of the Hilliard School District. Answer, the group includes community members and it is being facilitated by an expert in the field who is

helping with a current state analysis. They are taking a set of industry standards and going to each one of the facilities and seeing how it matches up with the standards. This will enable a list of priorities to be formed. Priorities will be based on the recommendations.

Question was asked whether the \$500 million budget was used each year or if any was rolled over. Superintendent Stuart's answer was yes, and sometimes they have to go into the general funds as well. There was a dedicated program improvement levy passed many years ago and it generated about \$5million dollars right now. There is some possibility in the next bond cycle there may be some additional dollars for permanent improvements. \$500 million dollars can quickly go for example, Heritage middle school parking lot being paved last summer was over \$1 million dollars. Need to be very intentional with improvements over the next several years.

Question was asked what is budgeted for the water retention areas, and what maintenance is being performed, specifically the one behind Crossing does not drain properly. Answer was there is nothing budgeted right now. This would be a piece that would be on the study and Superintendent Stuart stated that he can send someone out to take a look at it. Ms. Pinnick also states this was something she has worked on in the past and has issue with part of line blockage being Columbus and not Hilliard.

Question regarding playground equipment responsibility of maintenance. Superintendent Stuart states playgrounds around the district are starting to become an issue in a number of places. The Districts top priorities are warm safe and dry. It takes only one boiler going bad to knock down the playground on the priority list due to cost and budget. The last two years the topic is coming up enough, so one of the measures to be looked at is the conditions of playgrounds. The District looks at safety. November of 2024 is probably the earliest.

PTO member asked for clarification to be able to best help the school, and spend general fund in the PTO budget the best way for the school to benefit. Specifically the laminator has recently broke and general fund has been saved for playground equipment. Superintendent Stuart states the he cannot speak for the Board since it is ultimately up to them where the money gets distributed but his recommendation is to keep saving, and to certainly address the safety issues by putting in a work order and someone would come out to take a look.

Follow up question was asked of an estimate can be done to do temporary repair broken equipment. PTO members were able to answer; several playground reps have given quotes for just repairs of \$15-20k. Question is do we repair for temporary fix or continue to save for a whole new piece of equipment. Since PTO is struggling to fundraise and it is such a large amount of money, would it be spent better in other areas for the school?

Question in regards to curriculum was asked, what is the idea in place for the new or revised math curriculum specifically. Superintendent Stuart stated Hilliard School District is just getting started. The urgent concern is that the district doesn't have a purchased math program. They have just done in house curriculum and it's just not sustainable. We may even get it started before the full course of the study is completed. The teachers have voiced a need to fill the gap. This part of the study has just kicked off last week.

A follow up question regarding math program asked for those who test above average but not high enough for gifted program, how is the school meeting their needs to advance with a much more diverse student population than in past years? Superintendent Stuart stated don't hesitate to reach out to teacher to see how you can accelerate you students learning, and certainly having a math program more consistent in place will help with that. The districts job is take each student wherever they are to where we want them to be

Question regarding playground fundraising was asked, would there be flexibility in fundraising would the district approve additional fundraising to make more money for this? Superintendent Stuart states he is not sure that there is a limit to the number of fundraisers allowed per year and that he did not think they would step in the way of a motivated PTO making a big push for this. The parameters are how fundraising is run and with rewards. Any fundraising activity should be equitable and available for all students to participate in. He reminds the group to be mindful of possible fundraising fatigue within the community.

Another participant asked if there is any discussion regarding the math program to make it more fluid or dynamic to kids who learn a different way than others. Superintendent Stuart replied that anything that we do, we want to make it fit for all kids and as we review resources we will look at through the lens of each type of learner across the spectrum and make sure there are resources there.

Regarding the incident at Darby the other day with several schools locked down, is there a system in place to notify for substitutes teachers that are in the building?

Superintendent Stuart stated he could not share too much into the safety system but that when there's information that needs to be dispersed, a lockdown is simple, this is done through personal communication then a person comes and releases that class when allowed. There is no text alert system. In this specific incident, there was a call made to the Hilliard police stating someone was seen with backpack and rifle on the back heading north on Leppert. It was in fact an umbrella. Hilliard schools have a great partnership with the Hilliard police. They got word to each building and locked down within minutes in this, and got the individual. This was a minimal disruption to the day and the silver lining was that this was chance to practice and everyone was safe.

A participant asks if there is an incident on the bus are parents notified. Ms. Pinnick and Superintendent Stuart state you should be notified each time. There are no further questions from present participants.

Superintendent Stuart states he appreciates the questions from the group and everyone's hard work and effort with the kids. States to not hesitate to reach out to him and he will get back to you.

Board reports:

President Report: Nothing new to report.

Secretary Report: January meeting minutes posted to the google drive and once they are approved continue to send to Ms. Sherrill. Ryan moves to approve minutes, Katie seconds, minutes approved.

Treasurer Report: Deposit from Box Top and Kroger rewards \$770. Made \$140 for Red Robin spirit night. Raising Cane's to cut check soon for spirit night. Waiting to hear back from McAlister's, Katie following up. Recent Chipotle spirit night made \$178. Amazon Smiles program is ending February 20th. Expenses include \$400 for the Hilliard Education Foundation, field day down payment and about \$1500 in wish list orders. Walk-

A-Thon money is now pending. Katie motions to approve January financials, Naheda seconds. January financials approved.

Teacher Report: Mindy Babcock representing the intervention team present. Crossing has a big intervention team, Crossing is a title school. ELL team includes 4 full time (2 tutors and 2 teachers), title reading support team (4-5 people) and a mental health team, Chelsey Steiner part time social worker and Britney Warburton school counselor. Diana Lang oversees of all the interventions. Thank you personally for the grant for \$350 of bilingual text, picture and chapter books Spanish/English and Arabic/English for growing diverse population. HCR has 132 kids that are ELL(25%), and 24 new students with English as second language. Thank you in advance for providing a meal on Thursday, giving the staff a chance to sit down and be with each other.

Principal Report: Conference night is Thursday. On conference night there is a reading support zoom at 6:30pm for K-3 range about 30min. This is to give strategies to do at home. Ending second trimester on February 16th grades will be posted March 3rd at 2pm. STEM Night will be 5-7pm on February 23rd. This is a hands-on night for students. Each team will host 2 activities. Spring picture day is February 27th, that will also be class picture day. The class picture may be free, not sure if it is in the contract for this year or not. 3rd 4th and 5th grade testing calendar will be coming out in the next week or two. 4th and 5th grade testing starts on March 28th and goes through out April. Last testing is on May 5th which is our 5th graders.

Committee Reports

Spring flower: Fortmeyer can do direct deposit in place of a paper check. Sale Feb 22-March 8th, sometimes they extend. Delivery date is May 10th, will need volunteers for this day to unload and sort. Do we want to rebook in the fall for mums? Group discussion in favor of doing again in the fall, Katie will rebook for the fall. Katie has the flyers for spring flowers and will put in mailboxes. Flyer advertising the incentive for the classes selling the most, also make it with multiple languages to reach the most, and get kids excited.

Spirit nights: Piada is virtual for a week March 20-26 a code is needed. March 26th in person spirit night at Piada. Order online code is F45CDG, they give 20% back. Texas Roadhouse April 18th, they said we can do a bake sale for that spirit night. Items need to be prepackaged without a price and ask for donations and we get to keep 100% of the donations. Katie willing to run it, will also put on Facebook closer to that date. Texas Roadhouse also has rolls around Easter, you can fundraise rolls \$8/dozen and the PTO keeps half, this could be a possibility for future. Rebecca is working on Graters.

Conference meals: Will have a taco bar from Yabos. Sign up genius available, with some spots open.

Old Business:

Project Fund: Each year PTO sets aside 10k for one large item for the school or set aside for the playground. School laminator is broken and currently using borrowed district one. Decision needs to be made how to best spend the funds in regards to replacing laminator, saving for playground etc. Pricing for a new laminator is \$1800-\$2k. \$17,800 currently in Project Fund. There was a discussion regarding safety vs. laminator, and timeline for replacing and repairing playground. Goal is to replace main piece of playground which was quoted in past, from \$60k up to \$100k for something comparable to what is currently out there. Vocalize need for

playground improvement on Facebook more and maybe get more information out to the parents, maybe get more participation in fundraising.

Motion to keep \$10,000 of Project Fund towards playground improvement and \$ 7,800 to use for other items for immediate needs. No one opposes, passes unanimously.

New laminator is \$1,975 for the same one they have now, shipping is included and one year manufacturing warranty and the company works with the district office, lifetime technical support over the phone also included.

Vote for purchase of new laminator. Everyone in favor, no one opposes, passes unanimously.

School store/Spending approvals moving forward: Tabled for next month's PTO meeting.

New Business:

Scholastic News: Second grade teachers are asking to get Scholastic news for next year. Discussion to maybe having teachers asking for it for it with teacher grants since it's not included in the current budget. The cost is around \$600. Currently it would be an encumbrance from next years budget, is a possibility. Or just have them ask for teacher grants in fall 2023 or use money from project fund this year and ask teachers to ask in teacher grant going forward.

Vote in favor for Scholastic News as an encumbrance where it would come out of next years budget and moving forward they would need to put in a request via teacher grants or in favor to have teachers wait for Scholastic News and ask for it in the fall with teacher grants. More votes for wait until fall and have teachers ask under teacher grants.

Nomination committee: Need committee members, would not be on the board but would be willing to take the names for people who want to be on the board reach out to Erica.

School Store: Table for next month, discussion on adding this to the budget since items are purchased up front.

Book fair: Nikki has taken scholastic dollars in past as the reward vs the cash offer. Nikki is wondering if there is a possibility of taking the cash option, adding a line in the budget, so items can be purchased for the IDC. ISPTO talked about this, Ryan to reach out and see if this is an option.

Naheda motions to adjourn. Emily seconds. Meeting adjourned.