

**Heart River Elementary
Parent Advisory Council
November 20, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

In attendance:

Susan Cook
Jessica Alvarez
Jennifer Braun
Kami Crighton
Alicia Saienga
Jessica Sherman
Kristy Seidel
Courtney Stacey
Marcella McManus
Sherri Decker
Alicia Paque

- I. PAC Reviewed October's Meeting Minutes and approved them.
- II. District PAC Report
 - A. DPS Foundation helps fund a number of things within Dickinson Public School District that the district does not or cannot do, including grants for teachers and holding scholarships. This year they will be hosting a foundation showcase at the middle school. For more info about the DPS Foundation, check out their facebook page or their link on the District webpage.
 - B. Meetings with the Business Leaders and Community volunteers received great turnout with approximately 50 people participating between both groups. Superintendent Dr. Hocker shared that these meetings went well, but ideas will need to be filtered down to determine what is the right answer for our district.
 - C. ACT test results have been drifting down both in Dickinson and statewide. Superintendent Dr. Hocker explained that as the Dickinson school district begins to use the ACT as our standardized test this year, students will gain familiarity with the test as 9th and 10th graders and our reported scores will begin to rise.
 - D. The changes made to our bus schedules this school year have made a positive impact. Students are waiting less before they get on the bus, they spend less time on the bus, and there have been fewer reported behavior incidents. On August 9, there were 634 students signed up to ride the bus, by the November 13 District PAC meeting, there were 1100-1200 students signed up to ride the bus. The school board recently approved

the purchase of 2 more busses, costing \$180,000, in order to continue to allow all students the opportunity to ride the bus.

- E. The School District will be updating our Strategic Plan December 17-19. APQC will be coming to lead us through the update. A number of school principals, administration, teachers, and classified paraprofessionals will be participating in this process. The school district is asking for parent volunteers to participate in this process as well. Jess Sherman, Courtney Stacey, and Alicia Paque all volunteered to attend and participate in this planning process.
- III. Financial Report: after the Club's Choice Fundraiser, our current account balance is \$33,785.97
- IV. Acoustical Panels
- A. Mrs. Cook met with representatives from both Tricorn Audio and Scholastic Equipment for their suggestions and estimates for the purchase of acoustical panels to help with the noise levels in the gym. The representative from Scholastic Equipment had a lot of information on products we could purchase, while the representative from Tricorn Audio gave us a specific recommendation based on his sound experience and the type of sound problem he believes we have.
 - B. The recommendation from Tricorn Audio is for the purchase of 80 4'x4' nylon acoustical panels, hanging between the rafters. These would be nylon-coated baffles hanging on something like a plant hook or chain. Cost estimate of the panels, mounting hardware, shipping and installation is \$11,780.
 - C. Mrs. Cook also talked to Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris who approved for the school district to pay for half of these costs, which would bring PAC's cost to roughly \$6000.
 - D. After discussion PAC approved the purchase of 80 Acoustical Panels from Tricorn Audio in the color blue. Installation should take about 3 days and will hopefully be scheduled over winter break.
- V. Hallway Televisions
- A. Mrs. Cook would like to continue to update Heart River Elementary by adding two continuous feed hallway televisions. These could be programmed to display temperature and weather information as well as timely reminders including which of the 7 habits we're focused on each month.
 - B. The televisions would be 49" LED display and come with a 3-year warranty. Costs for the televisions, installation, cables and hardware comes to \$3286.
 - C. PAC discussed a number of possible pros and cons to the addition of this technology and approved the purchase. PAC supports Mrs. Cook's suggestion to place one television where students can view it while waiting in the lunch line and recommends placing the other along the

main hallway where it can be seen by visitors entering through the front door and potentially distracted students can be prodded along by office staff.

- VI. Security Cameras: The school district is having security cameras installed at Heart River Elementary. We will start with 5-6 cameras, but will be wired for close to 20.
- VII. Student Pick-Up Information and Discussion
 - A. Jess Sherman presented PAC with a proposal for changing our school pick-up procedures. She experienced a streamlined school pick-up process at a different elementary school in another state and, as many of our students are picked up by their parents after school, she believes this process could be incredibly beneficial to Heart River Elementary.
 - B. The idea is to repurpose our current bus lane and shift all car-ride pick-ups to the back of the school. After school, students would gather in the gym to wait for their ride. Cars would line up along the back of the school and wait in an orderly fashion. Paras would be outside with walkies, reporting which students' rides have arrived. As students come out to the curb, cars would pull up to pick up their students, paras would help children to the correct vehicle, and cars would pull away, safely circling out of the parking lot.
 - C. One possible option with this process would be to assign each student or family a specific code or number. These numbers would be printed on cards that parents could place on their dash identifying which children they were picking up. If a car pulls up without their card, they would have to pull around to the front of the school and walk into the office to pick up their students.
 - D. As PAC discussed adopting a new pick-up procedure, a few concerns were brought up, including the need to move after school bus pick-up to the front of the school building, but overall, the idea was very well received. Mrs. Cook will bring the proposal to our paraprofessionals, who will be executing the bulk of this new process, as well as the School Improvement Team. She will also look into who needs to approve removing our bus lane signage allowing us to utilize the lane for parent pick-up.
- VIII. December Meeting: due to the short and busy month as well as 3-day district strategic planning process occurring in December, PAC decided to skip a December meeting and meet again in January 2020
- IX. May Fun Run: PAC agrees to continue to hold our annual fun run in May 2020.