

Community Coffee Recap February 20, 2018

Pawsitivity Story - The purpose of a Pawsitivity Story is to share something positive. The school is promoting “Pawsitivity” with staff, students and the community.

Dr. Bute introduced himself and gave a brief background on his career and family. He has been a Superintendent for 12 years. Much of his career has been in Central and Southern Illinois. Over his 26 years in education, Dr. Bute has been a paraprofessional, teacher, athletic director, coach and principal. He has four children (a 27 year old son, twin 3 year old girls, and an 11 month old daughter).

PARCC Testing

- Mandated state assessment.
- Results are not returned in a timely manner.
- Results are not used for growth.
- Required by law to give the assessment.
- Test will change from PARCC to Illinois Assessment of Readiness.
- High school does not use PARCC for placement.

Multiple participants asked about Opting their children out of the PARCC test. Dr. Bute responded with: State law does not provide any provision to opt a student out of testing. A student can choose to not take the test when the test time is presented. There is no penalty to the student except that the parent and student will not receive the feedback regarding progress toward the learning objectives. In addition, there could be consequences to the school district if students opt out of the test. Loss of scores could produce negative media coverage and if less than 95% of the test eligible students do not complete the PARCC, we could see a reduction of funding from state or a possible loss of accreditation.

Participants also asked about the use of MAP testing. MAP is a computer adaptive assessment given at multiple times throughout the school year, the questions become more difficult as you answer them correctly. PARCC test is a fixed formed test, the questions do not become more difficult as they are answered. MAP is used to guide instructional activities and PARCC is not.

2018-2019 School Calendar

The 2018-2019 school calendar start and end dates along with major breaks were approved at the February Board of Education meeting. We are following the D155 calendar. The item for discussion is the possibility of late start Mondays. Dr. Bute explained what late start Mondays look like. The students would start their school days on Mondays one hour later, allowing the teachers to have more time for professional development. This schedule would give the teachers 30 hours of professional collaborative time versus the 15 hours they have in the current schedule. The students would still be bussed at the normal time or they would have the option to be dropped off an hour later on Mondays. The students that are bussed would be supervised by Administration and paraprofessionals, upper grades would have study time, lower grades would engage in activities.

The participants asked about the possibility of every other week late start. Dr. Bute responded that every week is better for consistency, no confusion for students or parents.

Some participants were concerned about the lost instruction time, while others felt the half day was not productive for the students.

Some participants expressed their feelings for working families and felt the half day scheduling is very difficult. There is no extended care on those days, other arrangements need to be made.

Other questions regarding the late start were, do other schools follow that type of schedule? Is there a penalty if the student comes in at late start time? Is there an incentive to keep the child home that extra hour?

In response to parent questions, Dr. Bute shared: Fox River Grove a school similar to ours (PreK - 8th Grade) and the high school district D155 currently follow a late start format with no problems. There is no penalty to a student to come in later, nor is there any incentive to keep a child home for that extra hour.

Master Facility Planning

CannonDesign, an Architectural Firm, is currently working with the District to plan necessary updates from the 10-year life safety survey that was completed last year. They are also developing a Master Facility Plan to help bring District 46 into a 21st learning environment. CannonDesign has completed its first workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to gather input from staff, students and community members. Dr. Bute added PG46 is not planning to raise taxes, they do not want to pass a referendum, but are planning to implement a workable plan and use the financial reserves over time.

Members from the PTO that attended the workshop, were at the coffee, and shared a favorable response to the first workshop. The PTO spent time brainstorming about events held at the school, about down time for students, indoor recess, and options for the larger rooms of the school.

With the recent school shooting, the topic of safety was brought up. Most participants felt their students were safe at school. There was discussion about areas of the school that may cause potential safety concerns. Some of the concerns were:

- The windows in the classrooms along route 176.
- The playground, there is no fencing, no protection and limited supervision.
- The actual classroom space, there is no shelter in the actual classroom.
- The response time from local responders.

Dr. Bute responded these are all good topics and will be shared with CannonDesign to include in the Master Facility Plan.

Communication Avenue

Dr. Bute shared that based on the survey results there is a need for better communication. In spring there will be a soft rollout of a new mobile app, similar to Facebook and other social media platforms, with a strong push in the summer/fall. This will allow all staff to push information out to the community. The program will also be calling to alert on urgent matters.

Other topics/questions from participants. Dr. Bute noted that some topics/questions could be responded to depending on the nature of the information sought. Others will be researched and responses provided at future coffee's. Dr. Bute's responses, if provided during the coffee, will appear in green.

- What is the District's position on enrollment decline? *We believe we are at or near the low mark based on projections. We also know that the housing market is on the upswing and at least one new development is in the late planning stages.*

- Will we continue to have one nurse for entire building? *Yes, we are considering a health aide but that is not definitive at this time.*
- Sport Teams travel without training staff and/or additional coaches. What happens if a student is injured and we have no assistance or added staffing?
- Lunchroom support staff need training as they have a high level of responsibility with a few number of people. *Agreed and we will develop that for 2018.*
- Curriculum: Do we work with D155 to collaborate advance class materials and who is in charge of monitoring and updating our curriculum. *Yes, we articulate with D155 but not currently have a dedicated curriculum director for District 46.*
- Future of Accelerated programming (ACES) with enrollment decline; more individualized and diversified materials for ACES students. *We are looking at ways to enhance all of our programming. It seems natural that an overall decline in the student enrollment would lead to a decline in the ACES enrollment if the requirements have not been adjusted.*
- Will Trimesters continue? *Yes.*
- Adjusting the Health/PE for Jr. High is a huge positive for next year and so is the additional elementary PE time (3 days per week starting in 2018).
- Will we have recess for JH? Other schools offer recess but no study hall. *No current plans to add a JH recess time.*
- Pre-register for Community Coffee meetings so that we have an idea how many will be present.
- Rave review from Panther Press - Where does the information go?