

## **Community Coffee Recap**

### **March 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.

- Advanced and Jazz Band I District Contest - The contest was held at Bernotas Middle School on Saturday and both bands received first division ratings. The Advanced Band received a perfect score from one judge.
- Young Author’s Presentation - The award presentation was held at the March 13, 2018 Board of Education meeting. The progress the students make from second grade to eighth grade is amazing.
- Appreciation of staff member - There are many staff members that go above and beyond at Prairie Grove. The parents are thankful for the special time they devote to their children.

**1:1 Chromebook Expansion** - Based on the necessity of educational content being digitally delivered, all Jr. high students will receive chromebooks next year. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will be able to take their chromebooks home using bags provided by the district. The 4th and 5th grade students will be provided chromebooks to be used in the classrooms on a 1:1 ratio. Student fees are not being increased to cover the cost of the chromebooks, the additional cost will be incorporated into the school budget.

**Special Education District of McHenry County (SEDOM) withdrawal** - SEDOM was able to provide resources to districts that could not be provided with in-house services. District 46 has been providing the necessary services to our students over the past few years without SEDOM. The Board approved and recognized Rachel Keeseey as the School District’s State-Approved Director of Special Education, through a resolution at the March 13, 2018 Board of Education meeting. The Board also approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Districts 3, 26, 46, 47, 155, and 158 to create regionalized programming to provide a comprehensive continuum of services for special needs students that live within the respective boundary areas of each district. The Region Districts will work in collaboration to provide specialized programming for students within the region. This may include, but are not limited to; any and all related services and comprehensive programs throughout the continuum.

There will be a joint Board of Education meeting with Districts 3, 26, 46, 47 and 155 on May 7, 2018 at 7PM which will feature the new agreement regarding shared services. Regular May Board of Education meeting will follow.

**Woodlore Estates Subdivision** - The new development includes townhomes, single family homes and retirement homes. District 46 boundaries will include approximately 75% of the subdivision, the remainder will be in District 47. Crystal Lake City Council approved plans at their last meeting. A new access road off of Route 176 is in the plans with a completion date of September 2020. Development phases estimated at 15% per year until the access road is complete, then 20% build-out. Based on calculation, 300 students will attend Prairie Grove. Dr. Bute thought was a conservative projection, there are 68 townhomes being built each with 2-3 bedrooms. The projected number of students in this section seemed low with only 10 students projected to attend Prairie Grove from those townhomes. School officials from District 46 and District 47 will be meeting with the developer after spring break to discuss the boundaries and other issues. District 46 will monitor the impact fees closely. Projected impact fees are \$2M, need clarification if all D46 or D46 and D155. At one time, Prairie Grove school enrolled 1100

students, currently at 700, capable of incorporating the new students. The new students will enroll over a period of time, not all at once.

**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.**

- **Will the District have enough tech support with the 1:1 chromebook roll-out? Yes, the district has two Technology Integration Specialist and a Technology Director that are available to offer tech support to staff and students.**
- **Will the chromebooks go with 8th graders on to high school?**
- **The drinking water does not taste good out of the drinking fountains.**
- **Retiring personnel and their replacements this year. There are four staff members retiring, we will be replacing three positions. Applicants for band are currently being vetted. There were 20 candidates, narrowed down to 4. The final four are teaching a class that is videotaped, and will be reviewed by the interview committees (admin and teacher) and Mrs. Krepel for feedback. Hope to make final decision in early April.**
- **Staffing updates for 2018-2019 school year. We are currently working on our internal staff positions for next year. This process should be finalized by May.**
- **Follow-up on August dates, meet the teachers, supply drop off, etc., to possibly coordinate PTO Book Fair event tentatively scheduled timeframe of August 7- 10.**
- **Consider staggering dismissal of events after school to alleviate parking lot congestion.**
- **Access to Event Doors through parking lot. Students were cutting across the parking lot, with no crosswalk for access to the doors. This will need to be addressed as a possible summer project.**
- **Possibility of an activity pass to cover games and events held at the school.**
- **Activity bus to take students home after events.**
- **2018-2019 Calendar Survey results. The early dismissal days for the 2018-19 calendar will be approved at the April Board of Education meeting. Start, end and breaks were approved at the February meeting. The survey response rate was not great, based on the survey results, we will continue to have half-day student attendance days during the 2018-2019 school year. The dates of those half days needs to be approved in April.**
- **Recent Calendar and Summer School survey results. Based on the feedback received, we will not be offering an enrichment summer school program. There were 84 community responses. Of the responders, only 30% indicated a desire to send students to such a program. The price point most desired was \$50 per week. Regarding the "late start" option for the 2018-19 school calendar. Only 31% of the community responders were in favor of the one-hour late start. Staff also weighed in on the calendar. That survey was opened to all staff, not just teachers, with 56% desiring to stay with 1/2 days.**
- **Possibility of a co-op with other districts for enrichment summer classes.**
- **Safety issues previously addressed. Master Facility Plan is addressing the safety issues previously identified.**
- **Consider a new way to schedule band without pulling from core classes. Difficult for student and teacher to work out missed time. This concern has been expressed in other venues. The JH schedule is being completed this month and reasonable ways to accommodate all stakeholders will be considered.**

- **Car for sale parked in lot over weekend. We may need to consider signage to deter random people from being on school property after hours and on the weekends.**
- **Cap on class size. We do not have a “hard” cap. Our collective bargaining agreement has thirty (30) as the number where we consider other options. Often, we start those considerations well before a class blossoms to thirty.**
- **Arming staff members. While safety is always a consideration for school leaders, Dr. Bute will not be carrying a firearm at school and he has no plans to ask the Board for permission to arm staff members.**
- **Police presence in parking lot during dismissal and drop off times.**