

Dunbarton PTO Minutes - November 9, 2016

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM
- Ms. Shearin for Operation Secret Elf Program spoke to the meeting
 - Program is similar to Toys for Tots
 - She will take the names and phone numbers of those interested
 - The toys will be due by December 9
 - The toys are listed by gender, age and wish
 - Toys should be unwrapped
 - Toys will be given out at the Little Vestry on Tuesday December 13
- Principal Harrington's report on enVisions curriculum
 - Basic questions to be answered: why has the curriculum changed & what resources are there for parents
 - Math experience for most parents was
 - Teacher driven
 - Simple formulas and straightforward algorithms
 - The process was viewed as procedural
 - Changes in how math is taught today
 - Math is taught conceptually, not procedurally
 - Math is taught with a growth mindset model, which is based on the plasticity of students minds
 - Grit and perseverance are a focus
 - Future career choices are not as predictable as they have been in the past
 - Mr. Harrington has had this experience from a parent's point of view as well with his own children
 - The structure of each lesson is:
 - Activate student brains with Solve and Share activity
 - Present lesson with interactive visuals/video
 - Work together with teacher in guided practice
 - Assess student learning with targeted independent practice
 - Assign homework based on student needs and lessons
 - Differentiation is available in the lessons
 - Parent questions for Mr. Harrington
 - Is there opportunity for enrichment?
 - Yes, there are more advanced problems within each lesson and homework
 - Some of this has yet to be implemented
 - What is available to the teacher for enrichment
 - There are some problems that are more complex or challenging in the lessons
 - Teachers, with guidance from the curriculum, choose homework lessons according to student performance

- How can parents support their students?
- The Bounce Page app can be found on iTunes and Google Play
- The Pearson Realize website
 - Call or email your child's teacher to get your student's username and password
- Use your child as a resource,
 - They have had the lesson, they can explain it to you
 - Teaching others a skill is shown to improve that skill in the teacher as well
- Pearson Realize
 - Must have username and password (see above)
 - www.pearsonrealize.com/#/
- What classroom teachers are seeing
 - Number sense is a major focus
 - Math vocabulary is also a major focus compared to other curricula
 - Grit
 - Deeper understand of the procedures in math
 - Fact knowledge is developed early in the program
- The technology allows for interactivity and visual learning
- The assessments are aligned with common core, therefore Smarter Balanced
- Things others have been asking about
 - How to support students at home
 - Why is math being taught differently from when parents were in school
- Some other points
 - Major goals are established for each grade level
 - Activities and homework are about process versus practice
 - Retakes and reteaching are built into the curriculum
- What can the school do differently
 - Show parents and students how to use the tools on Pearson Realize website
- A pause was taken to allow Mr. Harrington to reset the internet, during which the minutes from the previous meeting were accepted
- Once the internet was reset and Mr. Harrington could access the Pearson Realize website:
 - A video lesson was shown to those present
 - How to access the the textbook online was also demonstrated
 - It was also mentioned that enVisions would not be used at the middle school and high school level
 - Bow uses a difference math curriculum that is more computer based
 - Superintendent, Dr. Gage, worked with all districts in the SAU to assure coordination of various curricula
- Mr. Harrington on the current state of the proposed budget for next year
 - The budget has been presented to the school board and will be posted on the website soon

- The lower elementary needs new carpet
- Maintenance will require some new machinery
- The building will need to update the heating system
- Continuation of enVisions and Lucy-Caulkins materials
- An additional writing program, not to replace Lucy Calkins
- CPI (crisis intervention training) renewals
- A second security station to go along with the one currently at Mrs. Westenberg desk
- Full time tech-aide, this will be an SAU employee no longer hired through True North
- Full time guidance
 - Currently there is a counselor twice weekly
 - Only tier 3 interventions can be accommodated by the counselor (that is only the only interventions available, due to time constraints are of the highest level)
- Space requirements for All-Day Kindergarten
 - Possibility of dropping back to half day only if no room
 - Could combine 2nd grade into one class with two teachers, using a co-teaching format
 - Build an addition (most likely not going to pass)
 - Moving 6th grade to Bow middle school would cost more than an addition
 - There is currently \$90,000.00 in the account budgeted for additions to the building
 - DES will need more space
 - Possibility of a portable/temporary to use for expansion
 - The current 1st grade, next year's 2nd grade, might have to be grouped as a single classroom and co-taught until the space is added
 - The common area of the school is already used significantly, and therefore could not be reasonably used for an additional classroom
- The school board will be discussing the budget at its December and January meetings
 - PTO members and others are allowed to attend and voice their opinions/ideas to the board
 - The current school board members names and contacts are on the SAU 67 website
- Treasurer's Report
 - The Harvest Moon Supper did well, final numbers will be in once all outstanding bills have been paid
 - 276 people attended, we had planned for 350
 - Dave from Constantly Pizza was helpful with the coordination of food

- People enjoyed the music from Dominic and Mr. Kekay
- The first weekend of November is always mandatory medical training for NH National Guard, this might have attributed to less numbers than expected
- \$27 was spent on Halloween parties
- Close Buy fundraiser is finished, total numbers are not in yet
- New Business
 - Classroom holiday parties will be on December 23 from 9:30 to 10:30 AM
 - Some suggestions are: Pajama Party theme, Breakfast food and gingerbread decorating
 - Emails will be sent to room parents and alternatives, there is some question as to whether or not room parents will be able to attend
 - Will the classroom teachers lead the activity or room parents?
 - Kids Holiday Shopping Monday December 5 through Tuesday December 13
 - Grades will be assigned days and times
 - At least 3 volunteers are needed for each day
 - PTO Holiday party Saturday December 10 at 7 PM at Countryside Golf Club
 - January Movie Night on Saturday January 21
 - A movie must be chosen that we can pay for the licensing fee
 - Website to look for choices is www.Movilic.com
 - Most likely there will be no December meeting, a Holiday Party will be held in lieu of this meeting
 - What to do about playground fundraising
 - New basketball hoop on upper playground
 - Ga-ga ball pit
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM