



C.A.P.E. Meeting Minutes

Coordination of Administration and Parent Groups for Educational Efficiency

September 25, 2020

Zoom Teleconference

In attendance: Board Members: Betsey Vinson, Barb Seiden, Joanne Baker, Atiya Young-Coleman, Erinn Henes

Administration: Tom Hernandez, Lane Abrell

Board of Education: Heather Drake, Kevin Kirberg

	Bonnie McBeth	x	Central Elem.	X	Charles Reed	X	Creekside	X	Crystal Lawns
X	Eagle Point	X	Eichelberger		Grand Prairie	X	Freedom	X	Lakewood Falls
X	Liberty	X	Lincoln	X	Meadowview	X	Ridge	X	River View
X	Thomas Jefferson	X	Walker's Grove	X	Wesmere	X	Aux Sable	X	Drauden Point
	Heritage Grove	X	Indian Trail	X	Ira Jones	x	JFK	X	Timber Ridge
	Plainfield Academy	x	PNHS	x	PEHS	x	PSHS	X	PCHS
x	Special Needs PTO								

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by CAPE President, Betsey Vinson at **9:34** am. All present recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Roll call taken. All parent organization representatives present were asked to submit their name, organization(s) and email via Zoom Chat to help complete the CAPE contact list.

Administration:

Dr. Abrell

- Admin has been continuously working on return to in-person plans and have been continuing to watch the metrics to assist in decision-making. A return will be slow and controlled. We will need to remain flexible as conditions change. Monday night more details will be shared <at the School Board meeting>. The return will not be all students at once...it will be slow and gradual. Parents will always have the choice to continue remote learning.
- Congratulated Mary Alexander-Basta for becoming Mayor of Bolingbrook.

Tom Hernandez

- We appreciate and rely on the CAPE parents who are typically more informed/involved than the average parent.
- Rumors that teachers don't want to be teaching are completely false....every teacher who went to school to teach wants to be able to do their work. We are all in this together and teachers have publicly committed to provide their best efforts.
- Aux Sable PTO put together an awesome video of students thanking their teachers for their efforts in remote learning.
- Parent contacted Tom upset that Central Elementary PTO is running a fund-raiser when many families can't afford one now. Reminded parent groups that family support for fund-raisers may be a little softer than usual.

Ross Draper (PNHS)

- Many students, staff and parents have expressed very positive comments about remote learning. Others are very much struggling due to limited social interaction and extra-curriculars. Most are right in the middle of both

sentiments. Most teachers are working significantly harder than they would be in-person and they want to get back.

- Swimming, Cross-Country and Tennis are the only sports competing right now. Safety protocols are being taken for those students who are on campus. The District has handled very well the few incidents where students across the district have had COVID. We have started the process of allowing some school clubs to engage either virtually or in-person, again following safety protocols. Students have been very emotional <happy/relieved tears> about returning to activities. Homecoming is a big thought right now, but we can't dwell on that as we have to focus on what's needed to return to school. Teachers are returning to the building Oct. 13 and we need to make them feel safe and healthy.
- Seniors are being offered 2 dates across the high schools for SAT – the deadline has passed. Oct 14 and 27 are the testing dates. We had a great response from staff on volunteering to proctor the tests – 54 at North alone. This will be a great test on how we are bringing kids back into the building.

Christian Rivara (Aux Sable MS)

- Surveys on remote learning are giving us great feedback – remind others to respond today. All 7 MS principals have been meeting daily to talk about how to get back to in-school instruction. Also, all 7 are available for home visits to talk to your kids if they are having issues.
- Teachers are on live zoom the entire published office hours and they are there for any questions your kids may have.
- Every 202 student has a District email – the student can use this to directly contact their teachers without having to go through their parents. Students are learning to self-advocate and should be encouraged to do so. Please remind other parents.
- Instagrams called ASMS.tea (or ITMS.tea, etc) have become gossip forums – schools are trying to take them down. Parent contacts will aid in getting Instagram to respond and take these negative forums down.
- Teachers are having to learn alternate methods to ensure that kids are remaining engaged. This is a big challenge, so little thank-you's can go a long way.
- If you see signs of kids being withdrawn or depressed, please reach out to the schools. Middle school is hard enough without the added stressors <of COVID/remote learning>.
- Thanked the food service for all the support they are giving our parents. Mr. Draper and Mrs. Foster echoed.

Vicky Foster (Thomas Jefferson)

- Teachers are doing the best that they can do through these very challenging times. K-3 should now be getting laptops in October. 4th and 5th grades will be taking iReady Testing in early Oct. K are doing the Kids Assessment. These will all be virtual so our staff have been working hard to figure out the best way to do that. Media Centers are offering curb-side pickup and some are offering virtual book fairs. Schools are working hard to provide creative ways to help students get to know people in the buildings and remain connected. All of the staff (lunch supervisors, aides, etc) are pitching in to help make remote learning as successful as possible. People are even delivering materials to student houses and offering material pickup at school.
- We have been preparing for in-person return. Most schools have received plastic partitions, hand sanitizers, decals for providing directions to students, and work areas being re-arranged for social distancing. Some screenings/services are being started in the building using the safety protocols. Many teachers are offering time to socialize virtually to help relieve a little of the SEL stress students are feeling with remote.
- Thanks to the CAPE Reps for all you do.

School Board:

Kevin Kirberg

- Thanked CAPE Reps – your work is vital to Admin and the BOE for carrying forward messages and ensuring our students get the best that we can give them. It is great that our District Parents can supplement what the District can provide.
- Thanked District Admin – both central and buildings – for all they have been doing to prepare us for the next phase while getting us through the current phase of remote learning. We are committed to move forward as we are able, but it will be methodical as we prioritize safety. It can't all happen at once.

- Thanked our teachers – we know this has been much more work in this environment. We know this is not what they were trained to do or what they wanted to be doing – we thank them for their efforts.
- Next steps will be discussed further at the BOE meeting Monday.
- Board-driven strategic 5-year planning is currently underway. There will be a community survey in early October and other opportunities for the entire community to participate. Tom does a great job, but your assistance in spreading the word is very helpful. Tom added that the survey will go out to the whole community, including the many tax-payers without kids in school.

Dawn Bullock, APT President

- Teachers are not keeping students from returning to school, regardless of what you may have heard. We are advocating for the safe return of everyone. NO district wants to be the first to have the unspeakable happen.
- Thanked the Principals for their comments and compassion shown today. Teachers have been challenged to learn new technologies, tools and methods to make this work.
- Reiterated that parents need to let their children try <to solve problems themselves> and to advocate for themselves.
- SEL sounds like a new initiative as it is being formally added to the curriculum, but teachers have been incorporating SEL forever into their day-to-day interactions with students.
- It is so easy for teachers to get bogged down with all the negatives in social media and struggles they observe – those little positive comments make a world of difference.

Tim Albores, Director of Student Services

- Please feel free to reach out directly to Tim with questions and concerns.
- The SEL support line was started last spring – all schools who identify students or family that are struggling can directly link them to a social worker.
- We have a system, Referral GPS, that will allow us to identify therapists based on insurance, location, therapist gender, and expertise so that we can give a list of relevant resources to parents.
- We started rolling out 2nd Steps SEL program in elementary 2 years ago and it is being started in all schools. Our School Board, Dr. Abrell and Executive Cabinet have recognized this is an important initiative. The SEL lessons are linked to our Panorama Survey results. We will continue to do the Panorama Survey 2x/year.
- Hargrove Hospital ability to see students has been expanded to all schools. This allows students to see a therapist at school once we are in-person.
- Signs of Suicide training is on-hold until we can do it again safely. There is also a student-led program that is being rolled out in 2 schools.

Presidents Report:

Betsey Vinson

- Teachers have really risen to the occasion. There have been some cruel comments on social media. We need to keep stressing the positive. Thanks to all the teachers and principals for all you have done.
- Send me pictures of your favorite homecoming pics so we can do a virtual celebration. October 3rd would have been the parade, but it has been cancelled. Please hold onto trophies from last year until the next parade.
- The new school – Wallin Oaks, in the past when a new school opens up, all of the existing parent groups have donated \$50 to \$100 to help the new school with parent group startup. Please give your boards a head-up that we will likely send out something later this year or early next year. The new school is expected to be completed 1 month later than originally planned – but still before school starts and there is an opportunity for us them to make up some of those days.
- A couple of schools are not taking membership dues this year given the current economics. We have some tabs on our google docs for fundraisers to provide ideas to all our schools.
- I will be asking shortly for all the frames with pictures for last year's winners back for the CAPE Reception. Once we find out District Plans on Monday, we can hopefully come up with a reschedule date.

Community Report:

Plainfield Library, Veronica Defazio, Head of Youth Services

- Not present

Joliet Library Laura Yanchik

- There are 6 different library districts within the Plainfield School Districts. Outreach librarians are busy creating content for schools and parent group programs including virtual library tools, family reading nights, games, etc. Whatever way parent groups need support, the libraries are happy to support. They may even provide help on Zoom.

Plainfield Park District, Brock Stein, Marketing and Communications Manager

- October 2nd – final drive-in movie night at Bott Park 7 pm, \$10/car; Oct 12 – Stargazing at Mather Woods around 7:30, Haunted Hay Rides Oct 23 & 24 with family-friendly early and scarier version later – requests for volunteers will be coming out, Sept 30 Festival of Trees early-bird cut-off \$50/tree, Sept 30 Census Deadline, September is Hunger Action Month – please donate if you can

Treasurer's Report:

Joanne Baker

- Dues letter that went out with today's meeting materials was addressed to Central Elementary only. We will send school specific via email to all schools. Still \$175. Due date has been pushed back.
- 0 deposits and 0 checks paid
- Ending Bank Balance: \$7,737.84
- Motion to file: 1st: Melissa Penuto 2nd: Jackie Block

Secretary's Report:

Barb Seiden

- We are still in need of several schools to complete the Parent Group Information google doc. Please complete by 9/11. If you need the link, please email us at capepsd202@gmail.com. List of outstanding schools and the link will be sent in the minutes.
- Minutes – last month's minutes were emailed. Motion to file: 1st: Jennifer McManaman 2nd: Erin Koenig

Old Business:

- Bylaw Committee – the Bylaws Committee draft and Executive Summary of Changes were sent via email. Barb walked through the key changes and addressed minor questions about wording. "Initial" removed in point 2.5.
- Motion to Approve: 1st Margaret, 2nd Casey Clark. Approved by electronic vote

New Business:

- Special Election - As we discussed last month, 1st VP open position is nominations/self-nominations – feel free to contact a Board member if you would like more information. Prior to the vote in October, candidates will be given 2 minutes to provide an overview of themselves. Candidates must be identified in writing by 10/2 to be included in the ballot for 10/23 meeting vote. To date we have had no response.
- Both CAPE Reps should be present for the vote next month or provide a proxy if you cannot attend and want your vote to be counted
- Kelly Cassidy, Creekside - Boxtops is currently providing a referral bonus for downloading the app - \$5 for both the referring school and the new user's school. Creekside's boxtops went down a ton when they went from clipping to online, so this program can help get more people doing digital clipping as well
- Jackie Block, Freedom – doing Spirit Week next week. Prizes that were raised for last year's cancelled daughter dance will be given during spirit week.
- Veronia Fisher, Ridge – donate a desk program to benefit students who do not have a comfortable desk to work at in their own home
- Heidi Bartos, PCHS PTSO – Fundraiser Oct 6 Caton Farm Panera
- Atiya, Meadowview – Fundraiser at Chipotle by the Joliet mall on Saturday 4-8 pm

- Veronica Fisher, Eichelberger – Fundraiser Tues the 29th at Hazel Marie’s, no flier needed
- Cassie Clark, River View – Drive by Pumpkin Patch. Pumpkin decorating contest – winners to be selected via drawing.

Adjournment: 11:13 am, Motion: Jackie Block, 2nd Melissa Penuto

Next Meeting is: Friday, Oct 23, 9:30 a.m.