



C.A.P.E. Meeting Minutes

Coordination of Administration and Parent Groups for Educational Efficiency

November 20, 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: Rod Westfall, Kevin Kirberg

	Bonnie McBeth	X	Central Elem.	X	Charles Reed	X	Creekside	X	Crystal Lawns
	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
X	Heritage Grove	X	Indian Trail	X	Ira Jones	X	JFK	X	Timber Ridge
X	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 **9:30** am. All present recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Roll call taken.

Administration:

Dr. Abrell

- The state is going to Tier 3 mitigations. We are trying to balance numbers/metrics and community health. The numbers are not looking great for getting back to in-person soon, there will be a more detailed update Monday night. In order to go back, we need the numbers to go back down and we need folks to sign up to be substitute teachers, aides and custodians so that we have staffing to go back. The staffing is a challenge in many other districts as well.

Tom Hernandez

- People who are criticizing us are constantly point to other districts. At this time, most other districts are going back to remote. Elgin U46 was shared as an example of doing in-person, and they are now remote as well.
- Happy Thanksgiving to all! The value of involved, active and thoughtful parents is hard to quantify!
- Our staff is doing unbelievable stuff to try and facilitate connections with their students.
- Question was raised about doing a fundraiser with pickup at the schools – this can't be done at the schools right now. If your organization wants to do something from private property, we can't stop you.
- WG is looking to do a toy collection for the holidays. Can we do a drop-off outside of the school? Tom: We do not want anyone coming to the school for any reason that is not directly related to learning. We need everyone to be safe right now – like the Governor says, if you don't need to do it, don't do it.

Trevor Harris (Eichelberger)

- Thanks to the CAPE Group and parents for your support of our students, schools and parent groups. No school Wed – Fri next week for Thanksgiving.
- Panorama elementary results are in and our kids are doing well socially/emotionally. Our students are responding to our daily SEL lessons.

- iReady was just completed. 4th & 5th grade scores were pretty normal. K-3 was quite a bit higher, which may indicate too much assistance from parents – we will continue to communicate to parents that this is something the kids need to do independently.
- Several schools are doing drives to help support their families. Eichelberger is doing a drive for gloves, hats, etc. Shop with a Cop is also coming up.
- Our students are truly resilient, are really working hard and we are seeing progress. What the teachers are doing, and we've observed via zoom, is truly amazing. Our parents support is so appreciated as well.

Danielle Cournaya (Heritage Grove MS)

- Thanks to the families and CAPE for supporting our school and our District in helping to keep the positive tone in a very difficult time.
- Mid-term is almost here. We are starting planning to meet our incoming 6th graders.
- The 3 weeks we had with our multi-needs students were just wonderful.
- Beyond panorama, our iReady has gotten push-back as to why we would do testing at this time, but it was important to get that data to see that our students are progressing.
- We are working hard to keep our students engaged. They are resilient and hard-working, but some are getting tech savvy in ways to get around zoom. We are doing Bingo and trivia to supplement our academics. Book clubs, spelling bees, NJHS are some of the other ways we are trying to keep our kids and community connected.
- The things we have been able to do in the virtual classrooms are just amazing – we will continue to make the best of what we have. We know this is not easy for parents supporting their kids from home, and we really appreciate it.

Marcus Lyke (Plainfield Academy)

- Thanks to CAPE and parents. Trevor and Danielle stole all of my thunder.
- Highschool has postponed all in-person activities except for behind-the-wheel.
- Semester end is January 15. This is later than past years. There are no final exams. Encourage the students to do all of their work in class, as that work is their grade. Remember, grades count in remote learning!
- We encourage students to unplug from school doing winter break.
- We have an art, poetry and fitness challenge in lieu of Plainfield Academy's sports league.
- We had a very successful Bags of Hope Food Drive.
- Panorama survey is wrapping up today.
- SAT was administered on Oct 14 & 27 for Seniors at all of the High Schools.
- Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving break.

School Board (BOE):

Kevin Kirberg

- Thanked CAPE – you are so vital to what happens in our schools and your work is just outstanding. You are our eyes and ears in helping to make sure the district's messages get out. If you come across things, please forward to Tom so that we can make sure we get accurate information out to our community.
- Thanks to our staff – everyone top to bottom has really stepped up this school year. The experience this fall has really been a different experience from last spring thanks to all their work.
- There is a temporary pause on our strategic planning as the next phase involves in-person meetings, including meetings with our community. The survey data is being processed. Continue to watch for more information.
- The BOE continues to work closely with Admin on next steps and future plans to get kids back to in-person learning as soon as it's safe to do so. That has always been our ultimate goal – we are not defaulting to staying in remote learning because it is "easy", it certainly is not. We need the numbers to go down to get back to our plan.
- Our BOE does give everyone in the community a voice. Every perspective we receive is considered – not every decision is in line with what some individuals might think, but those views were still heard and taken into account.

Rod Westfall

- We have read ALL the emails we have been getting since March. It's been thousands, and we read and take everything seriously. We appreciate everyone's opinions, but at this time it is just not safe to have everyone back in the buildings. We have a responsibility to protect the safety of our students and our community. Most of the state is now remote and won't be going back until at least 2nd semester. We all want our kids and staff back in the buildings, but at this time, in my opinion, it is just not possible.

Christina Edwards, Health Services Administrator

- Communicable diseases are part of my role. Contract tracing is established at all of our buildings, with 3 contract tracers per building. Previously, the health department has contacted us with this type information, but they are currently overwhelmed.
- If your student is in-person at school or returning within 2 weeks, please contact us regarding their COVID contacts. You also need to contact us with any symptoms, even if you think the symptoms may be due to something else (allergies, migraines, etc). There is a form you need to complete with 5 questions that must be completed successfully before you can return to school with symptoms. If anyone in your family is experiencing COVID symptoms, everyone needs to stay home until that person is OK to return.
- We have a parent manual that we are updating pretty regularly. The information is continually changing, so we update it as new changes come in. Please check to ensure you are looking at the latest.
- We have worked really hard to establish PPE, floor markings, dividers, etc. Teachers have been given a mask and face shields; student will receive 2 masks. We are continuing to look for more supplies, although as cases rise, these things are harder to get.
- Wash your hands, maintain social distance, and use online tools to keep in touch with friends and family to do your part in keeping our community safe.
- Tom: I get weekly updates on our District's COVID numbers – these numbers may seem small relative to our District community, but you need to remember that these statistics are based only on the small number of students who are at the schools (in-person learning, athletics, or behind-the-wheel) – not the total student population. That number maxed out around 1000 students. Every Friday this information is going out to every family within the District.
- Betsey: Christina brought our district Young Hearts for Life. Christina: That is on pause now, but we are still hoping to do this at some point this year.

Community Report:

APT, Dawn Bullock

- Thanks for all you do.
- Confirmed that the teacher's union never threatened to go on strike if they were forced to go back to schools – there is a no-strike clause in their contracts.

Plainfield Library, Veronica Defazio, Head of Youth Services

- Library is going back to contactless services starting Monday. Curbside services will continue – including printing. Our staff will still be available to address your needs.
- Take-and-make kits are still available. We also have movies that can be picked up curbside.

Joliet Library Laura Yanchik

- Not present.

Plainfield Park District, Brock Stein, Marketing and Communications Manager

- With new mitigation guidelines, our fitness center will remain open but everyone must wear a mask within the facility. Our preschool is remaining open, although we will continue to look at that.
- We are doing a Bags of Hope drive until the end of November – you will receive a raffle ticket for a gym membership each day you donate.
- Drive-thru Santa event Sat Dec 5 & Dec 6. A giant snow globe will be available for socially distanced photos with Santa. Website has link to register for a timeslot.
- Dec 2nd is deadline for video message from Santa.

- Remote learning option is available for kids whose parents need to work – there is both a weekly and daily option from 8 – 5.
- We have an afterschool refuel program from 3-5 pm with activities, gym, and challenge course – available on a daily basis.

Presidents Report:

Betsey Vinson

- The BOE is an unpaid position. In circumstances like now, they spend a lot of time in their roles.
- Remember to send events to the CAPE President email or pm the FB page so that we can help you spread the word. We'll post fundraisers and other activities to share with our following of over 1000 people. Many people are willing to support events – even if it's not their school.
- Remember to help promote our local businesses during these tough times, especially those who have donated to our various organizations.
- Restressed Tom's ask to remain off of school properties to avoid liability and keep everyone safe.
- Relook at your bylaws, as they were not likely written for a Pandemic. We recently had another issue where a parent group board member fell of the radar for a while and the group could not get checks signed.

Secretary's Report:

Barb Seiden

- Minutes – last month's minutes were emailed. Motion to file: 1st: Tracy Dallmeyer DPMS 2nd: Kristyn Frebus

Treasurer's Report:

Joanne Baker

- 8 schools have submitted their CAPE Dues for the year – thank you. Total income is \$1400 for this month. Ending Balance \$9137.84. Motion to file: 1st: Jacki Block Freedom 2nd: Linda Salkas RV
- Remember to send in dues to the Admin bldg. on Howard St. We are checking on a weekly basis. Let Joanne or Betsey know if you have questions re: the submission of your dues.
- We had a question previously on the rules around raffle fundraising. The bottom line is that the rules for tax implications are quite complex. As a result the CAPE Board is not going to make any recommendations on what you can or cannot do, but we encourage you to reach out to your tax advisor to make sure you set up your events appropriately for your organization's situation.

Old Business:

- 2020 CAPE Reception – we still want to do the CAPE Reception, but we still cannot schedule yet due to COVID. We will be looking at this each month. Monies remain in our bank account from last year in hopes of still being able to use them.

New Business:

- Tonya is now our FVP. Tonya: We are relaunching the CAPE Rep FB page to use as a resource for our reps for things like the rules for raffles we just discussed. Emails from CAPE are still are main form of communication, but we will keep that same information on the FB page for backwards reference. You can also start your own threads looking for ideas from other schools, etc. We will have various topics to tag your posts to make things easier to find. Goal is to have page up and running by the first week of December. Once we launch, remember to follow the page and to tag one another when you want to make sure that other reps and/or the board see your post. Betsey: remember to keep your own parent group social media pages up to date and help them remain relevant.
- Ridge and Meadowview are having Christmas tree fundraisers at Anderson Tree Farm.
- Freedom is doing a virtual holiday shop. This will have a ship-to-home option. Dec 15 dinner night at Noodles & Co.
- Jody at MV, a week at 5 Below – Dec 6 – 12. A portion of purchases for the week will go back to the school – just mention MV.
- PC – Chipotle Dec 2nd 4-8 at Joliet

- TR Panda Express all day Monday.
- Eichelberger is doing Gators helping Gators 11/30 – 12/4 canned foods, scarves, gloves and hats (all new)
- Freedom – Halloween decorating contest was highly successful, so we are doing a holiday house decorating contest. Families will be able to go look at the houses in mid-December.
- TJ is doing a map of decorated houses for families to drive
- Liberty did a virtual cultural event this year – it was fabulous. Kudos to Azza, contact her if you are interested. There are at least 79 languages spoken in 202 and the new diversity numbers were just posted on our website.
- CAPE ugly sweater contest for December meeting – send a picture of you in your ugly sweater to enter.

Adjournment: 10:48 am, Motion: Crystal Vuletic Ridge , 2nd Andrea Phillips Wesmere

Next Meeting is: Friday, Dec 11 9:30 a.m.