



C.A.P.E.

Coordination of

Meeting

December 11, 2020

Zoom Teleconference

Minutes

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		Central Elem.	x	Charles Reed		Creekside	x	Crystal Lawns
x	Eagle Point	x	Eichelberger		Grand Prairie	x	Freedom	x	Lakewood Falls
x	Liberty		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		Indian Trail	x	Ira Jones		JFK		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 **9:31** am. All present recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Roll call taken. Special Needs PTO is on hiatus for the rest of this year.

Administration:

Dr. Abrell

- Not present due to conflict.

Tom Hernandez

- There is no date set yet for return to school. The Education Choice form is to plan for staffing when we are able to come back, but we don't know when that is yet. We will continue to monitor metrics, which are broader than just the health metrics.
- We had a tremendous response, about 21K out of 25K, to the Educational Choice survey. Buildings are currently calling all those who did not respond. We need to know the maximum possible number of students returning to ensure our plans address staffing and safety adequately. We purposely set the deadline a little earlier than we hoped to get in the final responses so we have time to get those stragglers.
- Positivity numbers are going down a bit, but there is concern that the holidays will cause them to start going up again.
- The first vaccine is close to approval, but it will be a LONG time before the general public will be able to get the vaccine. Healthcare and front-line workers are first. Teachers and educators are listed in group 1-B, but we don't know how long it will take before that group starts getting their vaccines. No one can be mandated to get the vaccine legally.
- EVERYBODY wants kids in school as soon as possible. We will continue to bring them back as soon as it is safe not only for students and educators, but for the general community. When we brought back students for that short time, it was glorious, but the numbers of cases in that group went up.
- Question – if the PTA is purchasing items for teachers to gift to the students, can parents come to the school for the teachers to give them to the students. Last month we stated that PTO events could not be held on school property, including pickups. Answer - In this case, use common sense, lean on the side of caution, and ensure that safety protocols are in place and followed.

Laurie Boyce (Freedom)

- Thanks to all the parents who responded to the Educational Choice form and for continued quick response to our follow-up communications.
- Many buildings are doing drives this year to help out families in our community.
- Dec 18 was listed in the original calendar as early release. This will now be a full day of synchronous learning. No office hours.
- Access Assessment for ELL students is getting rolling and will be completed in-person so we are preparing to do that safely.
- Mon, Jan 4 is the return to school after winter break
- Thanks to students, parents and staff for raising the bar on our partnership during remote learning.

John Evans (Indian Trail MS)

- Huge shout out and thank you to our teachers and families for partnering. We have gotten great support from our families and our teachers are doing a wonderful job. Kids are resilient.
- Dec 18 and Access Assessment comments also apply to MS.
- Giving trees are being done at every school to help out families in need.
- Timber Ridge is organizing a toy drive to benefit a program in Joliet, other schools are doing things benefitting Bags of Hope, a book drive, and more.
- Some schools have done virtual band and choir concerts.
- Next Friday, our kids will be able to participate in Shop with a Cop. It is always neat to see that the kids we pick always shop for the families first.
- Pickup for 2nd semester packets will be after we get back from break.
- Encore selections for next year will occur after break for 6th and 7th. Communications are also getting underway to our incoming 5th graders to introduce them to the Encore classes.
- We are doing yearbooks this year. We are trying to get as many pics as we can. We are planning for a fall distribution to give us max time to get pics in. We are still hoping to do school pictures in spring.
- Betsey: IT had a poster for all the honor students to sign and get a pic.

Bob Yanello (Plainfield South)

- Thanks to all the CAPE Reps and officers for all you do to support our schools & community.
- No HS final exams. First semester does not end until 1/15. 1/19 begins 2nd semester.
- For students who are struggling, we continue to offer office hours, we have peer tutoring and SPED tutors – all this information is available on our websites.
- Thanks to everyone for completing those Educational Choice forms.
- Course selection for next year has begun. Teacher recommendations went out the 9th and 10th and will be available on Home Access Center on January 4th – Jan 18th for students and parents. 8th grade placement recommendations are being worked on with the middle schools.
- In January (3rd week), we will have a Virtual Explore Night to replace our usual in-person walkthrough of classes, activities, registration process etc. Course selection will open up 2/1 for 8th grade families.
- Youtube presentation for AP, Dual-Credit and Wilco classes has been launched. This is available on the websites.
- No IHSA athletic activities updates.
- Week of January 11, collection of books from first semester will occur. The 2nd semester distribution will occur the following week.
- High Schools will have yearbooks as well.
- Betsey: Coach Boe did a pizza raffle for each of his classes and hand-delivered to the winners. Just one of many examples of teachers going above and beyond.

School Board (BOE):

Kevin Kirberg

- Thanks for the opportunity to come and talk to all of you and for everything you do. The work CAPE does as an additional communication channel is even more valuable this year than ever – so thank you.
- Tom did a great job of covering what is going on within the District. Thanks to all our admins, teachers and staff for making this year as successful as it can be. We are still doing all we can to get us back into school safely. It is hard for the public to see just all the work that goes into things behind the scenes. We had a plan, we implemented the plan, then the metrics caused us to do an adaptive pause.
- The BOE does work to hear the voices of all of our community members – of course decisions will not reflect the views of every community member, but we do take all your comments and emails into consideration.

Rod Westfall

- Deferred to Kevin.
- Betsey reminded everyone this is an unpaid position and thanked the school board for going above and beyond.

Margie Bonnucci, Technology Administrator and Foundation for Excellence Board Member

- Over 17,000 laptops were added this year and I am proud of my staff for their excellent job distributing computers and keeping them up and running. We are going to be open for the holidays with the exception of the actual holidays. If you know of anyone who has an issue with their computer now, please don't wait until January to address – bring them in over break so we can address them.
- We have provided wi-fi hot spots for families in need. Our Help Desk # is 815-577-4344. This is a call center number so calls will roll over to the next team member until they are all on a call.
- We have worked with curriculum on software.
- In spring the Foundation for Excellence normally holds our big fundraiser, which likely won't happen this year. You can still donate online and we are also offering advertising to local businesses that will help us fund our scholarships and programs. If you know any local business owners who might be interested, please let them know.
- Tom cited that last month Margie did a podcast about moving from a 2-3 year plan to get computers in all of our students hands to 6 weeks. He congratulated Margie and also the Board who fast-tracked the budgeting for this effort.
- There were 2 very positive comments in the zoom chat, noting Margie's team even assisted with personal wi-fi issues, on how great the Tech team has been.
- Margie has also been on the Band Annual Craft Show committee and they have raised incredible amounts of money for the 4 band programs. Unfortunately there was no Craft Show this year due to COVID.

Community Report:

Plainfield Library, Veronica Defazio, Head of Youth Services

- Unable to attend. She wishes everyone safe & happy holidays.

Joliet Library Laura Yanchik

- Our libraries are open, although we don't currently have computer usage, but we hope to have them set up next week for social distancing.
- Tues Virtual Story-time with Skate from the Chicago Wolves program.
- Brain Fuse is available from both us and the Plainfield Public Library. This is a virtual tutoring system paid for by the Library. There is help, videos on specific topics, paper reviews, and Spanish language assistance. You simply need a library card to get on from 2-8 pm daily.
- Joliet Library is open for renewal of expired library cards. We are also working on doing auto-extensions for people not comfortable coming in.

Plainfield Park District, Brock Stein, Marketing and Communications Manager

- Journey to the North Pole event for tonight and tomorrow has been postponed until next weekend due to weather.
- New activity guide is out for winter and spring and is available online.
- Winter basketball league is on pause. The earliest we will restart in 1/18, only if we can return safely.
- Fitness facility is still open.

- Noon Year's Countdown is open and available for registration to provide a bedtime-friendly option for New year's celebrations.
- Scouts Club 202 is still open for remote learning either daily or weekly on Renwick.
- We will have a Gingerbread House display in our lobby at Bott Park.
- Thanks to the School District staff for all your efforts for keeping our kids on track and engaged.
- Betsey – we are still working on getting contacts from Joliet Park District and Bolingbrook Park & Library.

APT, Dawn Bullock

- I really see both sides of the in-person learning issue. I know parents did not go to school to become teachers and it is challenging. Our teachers want their students back in school. We are not keeping your kids from coming back to school. The District has good measures for bringing our kids back when it is safe. If you have any questions, please email me and I will be happy to give you actual, factual information.
- Betsey thanked Dawn and teachers, who have taken several hits on social media. Please contact her to validate whether posts are misinformation.
- The Union Contract has a No-Strike Clause. When the contract is in effect, the union can't strike. They can only strike during contract negotiations. We ARE NOT against bringing kids back to school – we have to do this in a way that is best for all of us. No one wants to be responsible for someone dying.

Presidents Report:

Betsey Vinson

- We have set a date for the CAPE Forum Feb 16. In January we will ask each parent group to submit a question. We will either host in-person or via zoom to give our community a chance to know the people running for the BOE.

Secretary's Report:

Barb Seiden

- Minutes – last month's minutes were emailed. Motion to file: 1st: Crystal V Ridge 2nd: Blair Kramer Ira

Treasurer's Report:

Joanne Baker

- 0 deposits or expenditures. Ending Balance \$9137.84. Motion to file: 1st: Jacki Block Freedom 2nd: Amanda Speiser Liberty
- In regards to mailing in State or Federal filings, it is a good idea to send through the mail with a requirement for signature for receipt. CAPE and some of our members have had issues this year.
- We received Crystal Lawns, Wesmere and Freedom's dues today and will process this weekend.

Old Business:

- CAPE Café – you should have received an invitation to join our CAPE Rep FB page. This is a closed group, so you will have to request access. If you have issues joining, please let us know. This page is a resource, a place for on-going conversations, and is an extension of our meetings. When you go, you'll get a welcome. Check out the topics in the upper right-hand corner to help you find information more easily. We ask that everyone use their best social media etiquette. Keep opinions very professional. You can also tag people on your questions and posts to help alert someone else you want them to see the post. At this time, we will be keeping this group only for the CAPE Reps – please be sure to continue passing information onto your boards and communities.
- CAPE Reception is still on hold.

New Business:

- Barb Seiden will be taking a leave of absence effective 1/1/21 while she is running for the school board. Atiya will take over Secretary duties during her absence.
- We had a parent who recently moved to our community who asked to join our meetings. For security reasons, we have decided to keep the virtual versions of our meetings limited to our CAPE Reps and people then have invited. If you are unable to make a meeting and you would like someone to attend who is not listed as your second rep, contact CAPE to let them know.

- Coldstone Ice Cream Pies for PCHS PTSO Oct 14-20 – order online. Use code NICECREAM for PTSO to get a \$5 donation.
- Creekside Season of Giving Clothing Drive and Toys for needy families. They are looking for new items for 8 families. See our FB page “Creekside Elementary PTA Season of Giving”
- Eagle Point – shoe drive collection through the 17th. Goal of 2500 shoes. We are getting CLOSE so please donate.
- Freedom is having a Holiday decorating contest for Freedom homes. Voting from 12/14-1/1.
- Liberty school is having a Winter themed house decorating contest through 12/25. 15 houses participated and there has been a lot of voting.
- Wesmere Panda Express 1/14 10am to 9:30 pm
- DPMS is having a photo contest (Most Festive Holiday Card, Best Gingerbread House, Best Wrapped Present)
- PNHS hosted a video Q&A for parents this week. Recording is on PNHS website and much is relevant to other high schools
- Freedom Noodles & Co 12/15
- Charles Reed Hamburgesia 1/13
- Eagle Pointe Noodles & Co 12/16
- Ridge Anders Tree Farm Holiday Fundraising event and Dunkin Shorewood 12/18 and from 2-8

Adjournment: 11:00 am, Motion: Erin Koenig TJ , 2nd Tracy Dallmeyer Drauden

Next Meeting is: Friday, Jan 15 9:30 a.m.