



Vestal District Council November 18, 2020

Present: Amy MacDonald, Becky Kaiven, Kate Lynch, Krista Soltis, Laura Lamash, Marla French, Mehreen Khan, Sheri Esteban-Elie, and Sue Wendell.

Minutes: October minutes were approved.

President's/Treasurer's Report:

- Member Unit dues for the District Council are \$150. Please make the check payable to the Vestal District Council, and mail it to Kate Lynch, 17 Overbrook Dr., Apalachin, NY 13732. Thank you!

Administration: (Regina Felice/Laura Lamash)

- Vestal CSD administration is working in collaboration with parent representatives from the School Steering sub-committees and Building Planning Teams as the district mobilizes the transition to Phase 3 of the school reopening plan.
- All our school buildings have health and safety protocols in place as we plan to move into Phase 3, wherein students from grades 3-12 will attend school two days a week.
- We retooled the elementary report cards from a rubric to a narrative assessment model for this trimester.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place virtually.
- We are in the process of integrating the 67 students who switched from the remote to the hybrid learning model in the next few weeks.
- Teachers are working with students regarding their expectations during an online class on Zoom. Support is available for mental wellness, engagement, and social-emotional health if required.
- Ann Loose, Middle School Principal, has retired as of November 13. Mike Rotondi has started as the interim principal and will continue through the end of December. In January, Jane Hashey will take over as the interim.

Board of Education: (Mark Browning)

- A total of 34 staff/students have tested positive for COVID-19 since school started in September.
- Currently, we have 3 active cases (2 students, 1 staff member).
- Since the beginning of the school year, 143 students have switched from hybrid to remote.
- The most significant difference was observed at the Vestal Middle School, where the remote student population increased from 24.7% to 36.6%.

Member Unit Reports:

AFRICAN ROAD: (Marla French)

- In January, we are planning to have a virtual concert featuring Jared Campbell.
- We are trying to start a Mindfulness Program run by Mrs. Melissa Rosa for our ARE students and families.
- We are doing another Book Fair before Winter Break.
- Students and staff are enjoying the revamped ARE courtyard. We continue to beautify it with the donations that we have received.
- Planning for a Holiday Lights Tour is also underway.

CLAYTON AVENUE: (Krista Soltis)

- Principal Bruce explained the format of the elementary report cards. The report cards will be graded using the narrative model.
- We audited our budget.
- A virtual Scholastic Book Fair is going on until the end of this month.
- We will use our Scholastic Dollars to schedule a virtual author visit.
- Our Fund Run was at the beginning of October.

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY: (Aimee Szwalla)

- The Glenwood Elementary annual Holiday Food Drive is going on.
- A fall Spirit Wear fundraiser is running.
- The PE teachers are running a Bear Trails Club.

TIOGA HILLS: (Jessica Zwierzynski/ Becky Kaiven)

- We will vote to switch from a PTA to a PTO.
- Our Teacher Appreciation Luncheon was a big hit.
- Parents are donating food towards our Food for Thought Program, which will continue through December 4.

VESTAL HILLS: (Sue Wendell)

- Coming up is a Barnes & Noble fundraiser that spans over three days. It will be online and in-store with restrictions in place.
- The Cider Mill fundraiser was a huge success.
- Boxtops is an ongoing fundraiser.
- Parents as Reading Partners just started.
- We have received 7 entries for our Reflections Program. All forms are due back at the end of this month.
- The PTA is sponsoring a Festival of Lights in December.

VESTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: (Amy MacDonald/Marla French)

- Construction, as part of the Capital Improvement Project, continues at the middle school. Team 7A will be relocated downstairs.
- We discussed measures to keep our students more focused and engaged while they learn remotely.
- Principal Loose retired. Mr. Rotondi is our acting interim principal through the end of December. Jane Hashey will be taking over as interim principal in January. The search for a new principal will continue through spring.
- Our Vacation Power Pack Program is now called the Pantry Power Pack Program. For qualifying students, breakfast and lunch will be sent home for the entire family during school breaks.
- Walmart Inc. donated a large number of school supplies. The supplies will be kept in the district offices and distributed to all the schools that may need them next school year.

VESTAL HIGH SCHOOL: (Kate Lynch/Sheri Esteban-Elie)

- Principal Young talked about communicating school announcements/news to remote and hybrid students more effectively.
- A district-wide parent survey will be coming out.
- Vestal School District is continuously working with the Department of Health to revise and reduce the number of people who quarantine if there is a COVID-19 positive case.
- Construction, as part of the Capital improvement project, is on track and going smoothly.
- We brainstormed some pandemic friendly ideas for Staff Appreciation.
- Sports workouts are going great! 173 students participated in strength and conditioning throughout the week.
- The Marching Band made an incredible video with students from all over the state playing “New York State of Mind.”
- Dollars for Scholars will have a Barnes & Noble fundraiser in the summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- We will not have a meeting in December. Have a happy and safe Holiday Season!

Officers for 2020-21: President:	Amy MacDonald
Treasurer:	Kate Lynch
Secretary:	Mehreen Khan

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.