

U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council

**NOTES OF MEETING**

TODAY'S DATE

September 8, 2015

MEETING DATE

May 7, 2015

MINUTES APPROVED

September 10, 2015

MEETING TITLE

**CAC General Meeting**

AUTHOR

**Ian Horn**

LOCATION OF MEETING: Elgin High School Auditorium
ATTENDED BY: <b>Per Sign-in Sheet</b>
ABSENT:
DISTRIBUTION:
RC/CF:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION
1.	Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2.	Meeting minutes from April 5, 2015 were reviewed and corrected. Sandy Martin moved to accept them. Madeline Villalobos seconded. Minutes approved on voice vote.
	Board and Administration Update by Miguel Rodriguez
3.	New board was seated on Monday (May 4). We would like to thank the outgoing board members for their service to our district. New members were sworn in. For new board, Donna Smith will be president again, Traci Ellis will be vice president, and Phil Costello will be secretary pro-tem.
4.	Today we are celebrating more than 75 employees who are retiring this year.
5.	On May 19, district will be celebrating the volunteers who serve in all of our advisory committees.
6.	The board voted to extend Tony Sanders's contract for an additional 3 years and a contract with Dr. Arndt for 1 year. Board also approved the contract with two unions.
7.	School funding update: Mr. Sanders will spend time in Springfield to lobby lawmakers about funding issues. \$2 million was restored but there is a large risk that categorical payments will be delayed, to the tune of \$18 million.
8.	Kane county tax update: Kane county sent out information to tax payers that was in error, erroneously stating that U-46 increased the tax levy by 7.18%. This is not true. The large increase in taxes is due to a calculation error on the part of the Kane County Assessor in previous years.

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9.	High school graduation is Saturday, May 23 at Sears Center in Hoffman Estates.
10.	Mary Van Slyck presented a book: <u>Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis</u> by Robert Putnam.
	CAC Reports
	Curriculum Committee Report, presented by Melissa Lane
11.	Had many parents come to the committee for the first time about the new math curriculum. Kevin Wiland gave a great presentation about the new math curriculum and resource. Committee was assured that the material was OK but still had some concerns about communication and parent resources. This year (2014-2015) was the year for roll out to early implementers. Next year it will be used throughout the district.
12.	Committee issued recommendations regarding communication about the new math to parents for next year. Report from the curriculum and instruction director is that so far only 50% of elementary schools have scheduled the math introduction presentation.
13.	Next year the district is going to follow a similar pattern the elementary science curriculum. The committee recommended that it be engaged with the district to review the curriculum rollout process.
14.	The committee also reviewed the district's CTE offerings and made some recommendations for improving awareness of these options.
15.	Roll call vote was taken and the report was approved.
	FACE by Sandy Martin, Madeline Villalobos, Jeff Book, and Aimee Novelli
16.	The committee this year divided into three different groups because there was a lot we wanted to do.
17.	We identified a concern earlier that realtors in the district did not have the tools to properly sell the property in the district. Had two realtor breakfasts: Tefft and Larkin. Tefft had no attendance but Larkin had many. Kai Rush had an introduction and introduced Tony Sanders, who explained all the great things that U-46 has available, be it programs, board-certified teachers, CTE classes, academies, etc. The key to getting attendance seems to be to locate the meetings near the realtors' offices.

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18.	Another issue that the committee worked on is support for PTOs (parent groups). These groups are very dynamic. Some are more successful than others. We set up a group to study the different groups, how they are different and how they are the same. Also wanted to give the parent groups a chance to network. We started with a survey. Will have a face-to-face meeting between elementary school PTOs at the Poplar Creek library in Streamwood next Monday (May 11). We hope these meeting will continue into the future.
19.	The third thing we did was to support transformation schools. Based on discussion with Dr. Ushma Shah's ideas, we did some research on student-led conferences and presented it. We also looked at how student-led conferences have been handled in the district. Three elementary school implement them currently. With student-led conferences, the students are empowered to set and communicate their goals. Research has shown that student-led conferences have resulted in improvements in the students and increased engagement by parents. There are lots of details and interviews in exhibit C of the report.
20.	Another thing the transformation schools asked about was how to improve the curb appeal of the schools. As first step, wanted to poll parents of the schools on how to improve the friendliness of the schools. Did not have a chance to do more on this point but we hope to pursue this in the future.
21.	Q: were student led conferences focused on a specific age group? A (Aimee): It is for all ages but the experience is different at different ages. We saw a kindergartener-led conference. At upper levels, students might be using technology to do their communication.
22.	Roll call vote was taken and the report was approved.
	Special Education Report, presented by Melissa Owens and Sarah Thompson
23.	Had two events. The first was our Special Education University. Of the two programs we do every year, this one is focused on a specific topic while the other is broad. The target this year was on transitions. It was more lightly attended than previous years because of the focus but the attendees really appreciated the opportunity to learn.
24.	Second program was the Special Needs Parent Resource Fair. Had a huge attendance. The fair had grown a lot over the last few years so this year it was moved to South Elgin High School. This year we invited 84 exhibitors and had 52 accept. Funding issues and illnesses kept six of those away on the day of the event. Over 300 people attended the event. The National Association for Down Syndrome did the keynote presentation and it was very uplifting.

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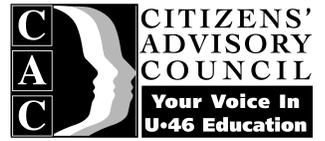
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25.	For the resource fair, there is a gap in the exhibitors providing resources for speech and hearing. If you know of anyone who does this, please let us know.
26.	As we wrote this report, we had just learned about significant cuts to programs that provide services to children with special needs.
27.	There are 5,100 kids in U-46 that have an IEP.
28.	Roll call vote was taken and the report was approved.
	Other business
29.	Executive board candidates have been nominated by the executive committee: Kevin Sweeney for secretary, Melissa Owens for chairwoman, and Dan Blake for vice-chairman.
30.	Larry Bury moved to close open nomination. Roger seconded. Motion carried on voice vote.
31.	Melissa Lane moved to accept the slate. Lisa White seconded. Motion carried on voice vote.
	Update from E&F committee
32.	Will consider moving a couple special education classes and dual language from Liberty farther East to give Bartlett parents the opportunity to participate in these classes.
33.	Had 14 visitors show up at committee meeting from one school. Rules are that visitors to the committee meetings can attend and listen but they do not have the right to speak. These rules have not been enforced before but they will be now.
34.	Please fill out the survey.
35.	This is Mary's last meeting as CAC Chair. Thank you so much for your service.



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	Adjournment
36.	Sarah Thompson moved to adjourn meeting. Brock Friedman seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.