

Watershed APC Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2019

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Jason Gillam, Renee Rember, Moira O'Malley, Abigail Paul, Lisa Beattie, Dave Merrill, Amy Arneson, Kelly Mansfield

Meeting started 6:03pm

Jason asked how parent-teacher conferences were going and are teachers still liking the one full day and week of afterschool meeting times. The teachers said they liked it well enough. Jarrod said he had one parent comment about how the P-T conference calendar seems to be moving further away from the district, and he pointed out that the fall semester is pretty similar, but the spring is different.

Agenda Item 1: Review/approve minutes

Renee moved to approve, Amy seconded, all voted to approve

Agenda Item 2: Cell phone policy

- There was a parent concern about the use of cell phones by middle schoolers before and after school in the halls and Phone Fridays (in place now for 2 years; middle schoolers allowed to use cell phones during their lunch if they get a good behavior report) and the exposure to the younger students who are looking over the middle schoolers' shoulders
- It's hard to know what content is being accessed on personal devices
- There is no written policy for Watershed, although there is an agreed upon practice of no technology for K-2
- In the past, there was a time when middle schoolers could have cell phones, but weren't allowed to show them before, during, and after school in the building
 - o If a staff saw the phone, it was brought to the office and a parent would have to come pick it up
 - o Current teachers don't recall parents having a problem with that situation
- Middle school teachers have had some feedback from parents that Phone Friday could ostracize students because they aren't interacting with each other during that time (instead students are focused on their electronic devices)
- Other middle schools have electronic device policies
 - o Ryan Middle: phones must be off and in locker during all school hours.
 - o Randy Smith: Not allowed to have the during school day, keep in locker, not to bring to class unless a teacher asks to bring them in for a specific reason.
 - o Barnette Magnet: All electronic devices should not be brought to school as they can be disruptive. Cell phones and iPads not to be used in hallways or before or after school, or in classroom unless under direct supervision of the teacher.
 - o Chinook Montessori: They can bring them to school, but can not use them during the day. They can keep them in their coats or give them to the front office during the day.

- North Pole Middle: No texting or calling during the day. They can have them at lunch or use in classrooms with permission from teacher.
- ICS/Monroe: Only allowed at lunchtime in the commons.
- Effie Kokrine: Cell phones, iPods, ear buds and other technology is expected to be off and out of sight in each class students attend. This policy is referred to as “out of sight, out of mind”. Teachers may grant permission to use technology and ear buds at their discretion.
- Eielson Jr. High: All middle school student’s phones must be away during the day, can not have them in the hallways.
- Lisa referenced a section of in the APC handbook about the philosophy of Watershed
 - An electronic device policy should reflect the philosophy of the school
- Moira said she’s had parent feedback: concern about that younger students are being exposed to by cell phone use by the older kids
 - Content as well as the practice of using them
- District User Agreement for technology – use only for legitimate reasons
- There was discussion on whether to get student input before instituting a policy
 - Overall agreement was that the APC board will proceed with developing a policy and Jarrod will inform students of the upcoming change
- Jarrod moved to draft a policy to be voted on at the March meeting
- Draft Electronic Device Policy
 - “Students are not to use personal electronic devices (including tablets, cell phones, mp3 players, etc.) while on school grounds/property without permission from school staff.”
- Jarrod will include the draft policy in the next parent newsletter

Agenda Item 3: Charter renewal update

Jarrod submitted the renewal to the state board 2 days before deadline. He had to wait for the FNSBSD to finalize the reapplication and contract before it was sent.

The renewal should be on the state board’s June agenda.

Agenda Item 4: Head teacher update

a) Last meeting follow-up answers

- At the last meeting the question was asked if it would be possible to do a follow-up on past students to evaluate their accomplishments. The answer from the district was this isn’t allowed.
- Playground equipment update: Boreal Sun did not reply to Jarrod’s questions about their playground equipment and funding

b) Mission

- a. Watershed did great at the Battle of the Books: 3-4 grade took 2nd place
- b. Watershed placed 2nd at Math Counts and will be going to the state competition in Anchorage
- c. 2nd graders did service learning project: baked dog biscuits and read to animals in the Animal Shelter

c) Budget

- a. Governor proposed a 23% reduction to the BSA. He also proposed removing the ability of the Borough to levy oil taxes, so this would decrease revenue for the Borough, which could affect the local contribution to schools.
- b. The lease prepay helps Watershed offset severe budget cuts.
- c. Jarrod presented some scenarios of budget cuts.
 - i. Looked at trimming \$40K (cuts to SAS, class supplies, library, student travel, school supplies, professional development) to come up with a new target budget
 - ii. If the reduction is large, then one result would be increasing class sizes, which would need to happen during the 2019-2020 school year because of the way BSA is calculated.

Agenda Item 5: Additional items

None

Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting

March 21, 6pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:55pm