

CPC Chair Report for November 6, 2014 9:00am CPC Meeting

We understand that many of you are upset that the teachers were picketing. This is an unfortunate aspect of labor negotiations but what it means to us is that the teacher's union and the school district are not close to an agreement and we will have to be patient. In order to do what's best for our children, we need to approach their negotiations with calm and civility for both sides as we will all have to work together once its all over.

The CPC Board will do our utmost to present information to you as best we can. Keep in mind the district does not negotiate publicly. We can ask questions of the school board and the administration but we are not necessarily going to get answers at this point. The teacher's union seems to be making their case publicly but their recent letter does not outline exactly what their demands are.

During new business please pose questions you would like us to ask of the administration. and/or the teacher's union. I encourage you to attend our next school board meeting Tuesday, November 18 at 8pm.

Here are some points from our meeting with Dr. Bernhard and Dr. Wilansky:

The district is meeting with a Fact Finder at the end of November. Dr. Bernhard doesn't expect to receive the report back for five or six months, so we can expect that a settlement will come later rather than sooner.

The school board approved their goals for the 2014-2015 year. The goals indicate instructional shifts rather than acquiring curriculum. How does instruction look now? At the secondary level student collaboration and project-oriented learning are key. For technology, blended learning and online content is increasing. Interactive websites and blogging will be included. Dr. Bernhard will be formulating a new 5 Year Fiscal Plan keeping within our tax cap. A third Capital Reserve Program will be put to vote in May. This program has financed construction projects for the district.

The district is in a good position regarding any additional funds from an approved Smart Schools Bond. As we have already acquired much of the hardware such as smart boards and tablets, Dr. Wilansky feels there are always other technology related enhancements we could add but didn't have a specific plan yet.

Dr. Wilansky said the district has narrowed their search for a Director of Guidance to a handful of candidates and interviewing has been scheduled. She expects to have someone in place for a January 1 start and the new director will be introduced to us at our February meeting.

We discussed two issues that will be brought up during new business and Mr. Bongino's presentation. The first is our bus routes and improving efficiency while decreasing the need for pick-ups at the elementary schools. The second is the need

to take a fresh look at our traditions regarding our sports teams, in particular the football and cheer teams.

Dr. Wilansky will be announcing the district's goal of outreach in supporting students and families. Shebali Tsabary will be speaking at the PAC on December 10. She has written several books about parenting and Dr. Wilansky has praised her work.

At the October 14 School Board meeting:

The following students were recognized by the district for their performance in the top 1% of the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program: Commended students - Andrew Buccellato, Colin O'Neill, Shannon O'Neill, Aspyn Palatnick, Chase Plancher, Christopher Reed . Semifinalists - Christine Collins and Edward Tucker.

Also recognized for the "Embracing Our Differences Art Competition: Lauren Brimeyer, Brandon Miller, Andre Kurland, Allegra Gold.

The new district goals for 2014-15 were voted on and approved.

There was a donation of plantings along the exit by Lawrence Hill Rd.

Wendi and I presented the School Board, Dr. Wilansky, Dr. Bernhard and Mrs. Bellino gifts from the CPC and the various parent groups to thank them for their service to the district and our children. We received lovely thank you notes from Janice Elkin and Amy Brogan.

Submitted by Beth Packert