

## 05/20/22 - Weekly Board Notes

### **Kate Keinert - Equity Framework Community Group Invitees:**

Again, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the commitment of time and energy volunteered by those who participated in the EF Community groups. This work continues to be important to them and I was honored to share their input with our Board. I regret the Workshop format, typically less formal and more conversational than a regular Board meeting, may have been compromised due to seating and the fact that the event was recorded. I hope the participants in our Community groups felt valued and heard throughout our time together and as their input was shared the other night. I thank you all for the sincerity of questions, insights, and experiences you were able to share during our short time together and remind each of you that I am happy to visit at any time. :)

Here is the list of participants from the 2 Equity Framework Community Groups as requested at Monday's Board Workshop:

### **Wednesday 5:30 pm group invitees:**

Brian Kelly  
Angela Murphy  
Jamie Jonz  
Sarah Owen Williams  
Catherine Courtney  
Jadie Hager  
Kevin Bitnoff  
Johanna Brown  
Jennifer Cork  
Sarah Negugogor  
Scott Estes  
Jennifer O'Callaghan  
Sheri Bullock  
Natalie Keim  
Laura VanVorhees

### **Friday 11:00 am Group Invitees:**

Brandi Johnson  
Jeanette Laster  
Jaylin Krell  
Shawna Campbell-Daniel  
Shaura Larson  
Lisa Rich  
Meghan Hamilton  
Sarah Swanby  
Tatjana Roberts

Lindsey Knoll  
Melissa Peace  
Alisha Williams  
Susan Moss  
Amy Voeller  
Keri Simonet  
Gretchen Lawrence

**Mike Nelson – May Assessment Newsletter:**

The monthly *Talkin' Testing* newsletter was sent to District staff this week.

*SEE ATTACHED TALKIN TESTING MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER DOCUMENT.*

**Katie Keinert - Recent Examples Of How The "Equity Lens" Has Helped Us Remove Barriers For Students:**

1. Silverwood Companion Tickets

You may remember in an earlier Board memo I mentioned the partnership between CDA SD and Silverwood. The Read2Ride program is intended to give all students *equal opportunity* to earn a free day pass to Silverwood. The expectation is the same: Read and record 10 hours of reading in exchange for your free ticket. It can be very motivating to students; my own children love the challenge. Silverwood offers this incentive because they believe reading is valuable and hope all students participate.

What we mean by equity and "removing barriers"...

Sadly, many students earn a ticket only to have it expire because a companion ticket for whichever grown-up would take them is too expensive. Why aspire to read 10 hours for the Read2Ride Challenge when you already know no one can take you? The cost of a companion ticket created an unintended barrier to a number of our students who could otherwise benefit from the equal opportunity to complete the challenge and enjoy the reward.

Positive outcome...

Silverwood recognized the issue, because we were able to address it through an equity lens, and offered a companion ticket to any student who would benefit. In grades K-6, we submitted 251 names!

2. Midway through the year, the music died...at least for some students!

All fifth grade students are invited to join the Orchestra elective, taught at all 11 elementary schools by the spectacular teacher, **Mrs. Kristina Phillips**. Each student can choose which instrument they'd like to play (violin, viola, cello, or string bass). Mrs. Phillips could care less if *every student* at one school chooses the cello, if *no student* chooses the viola... it's up to the student and their family. The classes are popular, rigorous, and joyful.

What do we mean by equity and "removing barriers"...

Sadly, partway through the first semester, transportation realized and had to enforce a law that students can't transport large instruments on the bus. This meant that students who had *chosen* the bass or cello,

could only continue learning how to play it IF they didn't ride the bus to school. This impacted over a dozen students who had already committed to learning their instrument of choice. We were essentially telling students that, through no fault of their own, they would need to select a smaller instrument or quit orchestra. Students playing the cello or bass who had private transportation were not forced to give up their instrument.

Positive outcome...

To address this, we worked with each elementary building (for storage space), Mrs. Phillips, Burt's Music, and the Music Conservatory to secure an extra bass and two extra cellos for *each* of our elementary schools. This removes the need to transport the large instruments back and forth and gives us additional supply to loan students who want to participate in orchestra! Kristina also has a supply of violas and violins; now her stock of instruments is more complete and will remove the transportation barrier several of our students experienced this year. We hope this additional supply will also encourage more kids to join who can't afford the rental fees for instruments.

### **Keith Orchard - You Are Invited To the Community Youth Mental Health Meeting:**

Coeur d' Alene Public Schools is planning to partner with "Communities for Youth; Empowering communities through a strategic partnership to help young people thrive" whose goal is to work with our school community to build relationships, understanding, and shared accountability. The focus for this year in Idaho is on youth mental health. The US Surgeon General has proclaimed youth mental health as an epidemic and Idaho youth exhibit some of the highest rates in the nation for depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide completion. They will work with Cda Schools and the community to support meaningful conversations and shared action planning. The plan is to start with a community "listening session" meeting where questions are posed and feedback from community members is recorded. There will be a follow up in August or September where the information from session one will be summarized and shared and the School District can elicit a second round of feedback to get input on action steps the schools can take to best serve students.

*SEE ATTACHED COMMUNITY MEETING POSTCARD\_COEUR D'ALENE\_V2\_PRINT DOCUMENT.*

### **Mike Nelson - Student Engagement Survey Results FY2022:**

*SEE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM – DISTRICT STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS SY2022 DOCUMENT.*

### **2022-23 Actual Enrollment as of 05/19/22:**

The attached reports show current enrollment in Skyward for the **2022-23 school year** as of 5/19/22. These numbers are fluid and will change prior to school beginning in the Fall as families move in and out of the area, kindergarten families realize they need to enroll, etc., but this gives us a good snapshot for initial planning purposes (staffing, etc.). The report also notes building capacity in order to see where needs may be.

*SEE ATTACHED ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY 2022 – 2023 ENROLLMENT REPORTS (2) DOCUMENTS.*

**05/19/22 - Current Enrollment Numbers Reports:**

*SEE ATTACHED ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY ENROLLMENT REPORTS (2) DOCUMENTS.*

**Q &A Responses:** (Cabinet responses to Trustee questions will be placed here and posted on the following Board Weekly Notes.)