Central PTO Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: 12/06/2019
LOCATION: Skokie School Community Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Anne Cudney (in place of Maggie Bietler, Deirdre Franklin, Michele Giczewski, Trisha Kokanda, Holly Miller, Christine Morse, Julie Pagliaro, April Potterfield, Emily Rose, Missy Shinall,
Agenda: School Board Listening Session

Q: What are some things you appreciate about our schools/district this year?

Responses:
● Appreciate access to teachers
● Teachers and students with a deeper connection
● Communication
● Quality of educators
● The same cohesive message from the principals (suggestion to continue this)
● Transparency and sharing amongst the schools is positive and hopes that there will be more opportunity for best practices and experiences, instead of it being different based on each school
● Good leadership at all five schools
● Commitment to SEL learning, how to use advisory and wish list for SEL related materials in books, games, etc

Q: What are some concerns you have about our school/district this year?

Responses:
● Facilities and concerns based on the age of the schools, as an example, the drinking water
● How will all students fit into Washburne when Skokie is decommissioned?
● Lack of consistency of what is offered at elementary schools and dedicated space for things such as a Resource Center and lunch space for students as well as for the staff

Addressing some concerns:
There are set Collaborative Learning Team Meetings CLT - the goal is to work on a curriculum map in small group and then present to the group at large
Work underway to determine what are best practices that can be shared

Concern
There is a perception that certain teams are better.
SEL curriculum is taking too long to implement consistently
How is the Skills period slot is used
There is a perception that people come to D36 for support services. There exists a disproportionately high level of behavior issues

Response
- The Kindergarten teachers are having more of a presence in the preschools to help identify behavior and have more successful classrooms
- The 2nd grade co taught classrooms is a good model and staff continue to look at the profile needs of the kids
- Co taught teams allow extra support for a particular unit. Facilitators are topic specific and the resources for teachers to move in and out of the various classrooms
- Positive - teachers feel safe to bring up their concerns of the classroom and they are provided with many levels of support

Other concerns
- Washburne food program
- Washburne chorus and orchestra participation has a significant drop
- Response:
  - Awareness exists and work currently underway to address this
  - Question if MAP testing is used for a teacher profile and or to place kids? It is NOT used for placement of a student.
- Request for an explanation of New Trier Math sent to 6th grade parents.
- Lack of information and direction at Skokie and concern is the lack of preparation for level 4 classes in both math and science