

## **Board Generated Discussion Topics for 2016–2017 Year**

At our Annual Planning Meeting in June 2016, the board brainstormed a list of topics to discuss at meetings. From the minutes of that meeting:

- **Board Professional Development Plan: SCC Training, USBA/NSBA; Board Development; Parliamentary Procedures; Coordination with Other Professional Development; etc.**

Board members were asked to contact President Bennett with suggestions and topics. Some suggestions were: going to schools to have school reports, not recording the video at the board meetings, leaving time at the end of the board meeting for board members to bring up issues, having a more in depth parliamentary procedures training, and having the board meetings paperless. In addition, board members discussed the possibility of adding some board governance committees.

After hearing from board members, I compiled the following list of discussion topics suggested by board members:

- Work on budget requests and procedures for making requests
- USBA report and USBA Master Boards Award
- Committee assignment and tasks
- Paperless and video options for meetings
- Electronic participation for meetings and closed sessions
- Board evaluation
- Student Achievement Plan updates
- Joint Board of Education/City Council meeting
- State legislators meeting to share priorities
- Student performance indicators
- Foundation update
- School tours
- Board member reports at the end of meetings
- Parliamentary procedures training

In addition, the following topics from previous years were recommended by at least one board member for continued discussion:

- High school “modernization” for increased flexibility
- Later start times for high schools
- Special Education updates
- Site-based decision-making
- Targeted help for at-risk students

- Expansion of early childhood programs (full-day K, preschool, Parents as Teachers) and better pay for pre-K teachers
- Class-size reduction
- Increased compensations for teachers, paraprofessionals, and others; including lowering of insurance costs

I believe that we have addressed most of these topics throughout the year, although some will require additional discussion. We have yet to address the following:

- Foundation updates (Report on the current state of projects?)
- Student Achievement Plan updates (The board did discuss the plan many times but did not discuss a consistent monitoring process to be incorporated into its meetings.)
- State legislators meeting to share priorities (Some members of the board did meet with legislative leaders briefly at the capitol during the legislative session.)

Board members will be trained in parliamentary procedures on July 20.

Other topics have come up during this school year and will be on the master list for consideration during the upcoming school year.

—Heather Bennett, June 15, 2017

## **Board Member Ideas for Discussion/Report Topics: 2017–2018 Year As of June 15, 2017**

### **Michael Nemelka**

- School start times
- Three-tier bussing
- Applied Technology, CTE
- Competitive pay for subs, aides, etc.

### **Kristi Swett**

- Review list of topics from June of last year and possibly information from Hager training in August?

### **Melissa Ford**

- Training for the board in how to evaluate SIPs; training for principals in how to share data and accommodate feedback; training for SCCs in roles and responsibilities (not just Shared Governance)
- Communication protocols, especially how to communicate constituent concerns/opinions to the superintendent
- Athletics — specifically lacrosse and other club sports
- Funding gaps to achieve a truly “free” public education; fees, booster clubs, fundraising; fines and penalties — withholding yearbooks or even denying students the ability to “walk” at graduation
- Student services report specific to safe school hearings, discipline etc. — including disciplinary issues specific to high schools
- Academic pathways and rigor; offering personalized learning to the best of our ability; coursework at the level that students require it; clearly communicate pathways and prerequisites starting in seventh grade; CCR conversations that are individualized and address ways to remediate and fill gaps

### **Rosemary Emery**

- Look at our ability to offer Associate Degrees — since we offer so many concurrent, AP, and IB classes
- Discuss start times while always looking at end times (remembering that in almost everyone low blood sugar occurs between 2:00 and 3:00 pm); also, look at the high school schedule — rather than do things piecemeal we need to look at the whole picture, including a discussion of attention spans and learning cycles in teenagers
- Diagram of officers and staff at the district, their assignments, responsibilities and who does their evaluations and performance reports
- In order to balance school size — look at moving a program such as IB to Highland High
- Report on our dual-immersion programs at both our elementary and middle schools: Are we seeing an uptick in these students’ achievement?

- Review our Title 9 compliance with sports at the high schools
- See if there is a way for students who need more reading and/or math at the high schools to get more personalized help early so that college or further education is not out of their reach because of holes in their learning

### **Katherine Kennedy**

- Setting long-range plans and student-achievement goals — 10, 20, 50 years into the future
- Specific language arts goals for students
- Financial goals for increasing teacher compensation over time
- Later start times for secondary schools and bus schedule concerns
- Future of district charter schools
- Long-range building plans and possibility of bonding
- Arts programming in the high schools

### **Heather Bennett**

- Secondary reading: What is the problem and what is the plan for remediation?
- ALS services (especially high school): What is the new course service pattern and how will it be communicated?
- Social and Emotional Learning: Comprehensive plan (PD, Sped, Counselors, Student Services): “Plan for the most difficult child in the class”
- Discipline and restorative justice: report on progress
- Early Childhood (PK–2): Testing and appropriate balance of activities in the classroom: Have the early grades become too “academic” and developmentally inappropriate?
- ELP program: Equity and excellence; clarifying the role of different parts of the program (magnet and neighborhood pull-out); constituting the magnet classes in a sustainable way that does not penalize the host school
- Arts: Who has what programs during the school day and after school? How to encourage both equity and excellence? UHSAA activities and beyond
- Athletics: Title 9; lacrosse; sportsmanship; Unified Sports; fees and fee waiver impacts
- PEP grant report and physical education / wellness plan for district
- SL Education Foundation update mission and vision
- Interrelationships: Community Learning Centers; Community Education; Parental Engagement
- Funding challenges for Special Education and other programs
- Later high school start times: How to survey and organize community meetings? Report from the “Start School Later” conference, including possible presentation by Wendy Troxel
- Communication protocols between board and superintendent/staff