Site Council

Meeting Notes 10/30

Attendees

Michelle Barrows – NMHS Teacher

Dan Carstens – NMHS Principal

Margaret Gilman – NNS Principal

Janell Grenier – NMHS Staff / Parent

Wayne Ogle - Assembly

Meagan Payne - Parent

Sarah Singer – NMHS Teacher

Notes

* Watched KPBSD 1st District Power Point Finance Presentation
* KPBSD wants to gather site input to help guide budget development
* WO: District doesn’t explain well the enrollment vs. financial deficit
* District needs to explain to public the “cost of schools”
* Is in favor of a 3.5% tax to support schools
* Family issues, mental needs, child services, interventions, homelessness, etc. are not issues known to public
* We have an increased dysfunctional society that affects school population and the cost of schools
* DC: We are 50% free and reduced lunch
* MG: NNS is over 50% free and reduced lunch
* MG: Gave NNS school annual report to council
* Unallocated teachers have been an issue
* This year there were no unallocated teachers
* Enrollment has decreased by over 40 students
* KBeach had an increase so a NNS teacher had to go to KBeach. This was disruptive to students and teachers. 125 kids were impacted.
* DC: Distance Ed helps keep class sizes down
* Challenge is that cadcam, welding, wood shop can’t have large sizes
* MG: Staffing issues @ elementary level affect students down the road at NMHS
* If students don’t get what they need, they go to Connections or IDEA
* DC: The more students that go to IDEA, we lose funding for the services that those students come to our school to utilize
* MG: 12 students this year went to IDEA or connections this year
* Students are leaving for several reasons 1.) Punishment from parents 2.) Angry at school 3.) Want to use religious materials from IDEA
* MP: Suggestions for improvement
* Cut positions at the district level
* Go to a 4 day work week
* Close smaller schools such as Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, and Hope
* MG: District office has had substantial reductions in staffing over the years
* Need to be smart about staffing and not reduce to much
* WO: Would be politically impossible to close smaller schools
* DC: If a school has at least 10 students, it must be left open according to law
* The question we need to consider is restructuring schools / school consolidations
* MG: District does not have to provide building for a charter school
* DC: NMHS numbers will stay at about 360. Nikiski should not consolidate
* MG: NNS suffered a loss of 5 families who were the result of oil jobs being lost (they were in hospitality)
* MP: in favor of a sales tax
* WO / MP: Discussion of sales tax in Soldotna and how well city is being run
* JG: People don’t want to pay a sales tax. General people do not understand the true plight of schools. We need to show people the need and its importance
* WO: Public will pay a sales tax if they know why it is important
* MG: Student nutritional services pose a problem
* DC: We need a revenue source. We need to educate people about the needs of the district
* MP: We should reach out to the churches to get the word out about the needs of the school
* MB: We need to be specific in detailing the needs of students and schools or people will not be willing to fund.
* DC: One issue is that the district has been successful with managing reduced funds. So, the public does not see a problem.
* We still score higher than the other big districts. We show success.
* WO: Getting the message out now is hard because of union negotiations
* All Members: We need to get the message out that schools are in need