



SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
APRIL 20, 2017  
MEETING MINUTES

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Members Present: Amanda Cox, Sandusky Elementary School; Susan Neiss, Heritage Elementary School; Kelly Nylund, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation; Beth Bolton, Dearington Elementary School for Innovation; Scott Brabrand, Superintendent; Wendie Sullivan, Recording Secretary

The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council met at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Dr. Brabrand opened the meeting.

- Dr. Brabrand provided members with an update on the school operating budget for 2017-18. The school division will not get its requested funding of \$3,735,766 from the city. At this point, Dr. Brabrand has been advised that only \$1.2 million will be provided locally. The budget request contains \$2.2 million in mandated costs for special education related services and support, Virginia Retirement System, and other insurance related costs. Further, the city will not pay for the replacement of old school buses, so the school division will need to find other funding sources for them. The budget also includes market increases for targeted custodians, school bus personnel, and maintenance staff.
- The city's capital improvement plan does include renovations for Linkhorne Elementary School, Sandusky Elementary, and Paul Munro Elementary School.
- Online registration has begun for all students for the 2017-18 school year.
- Dr. Brabrand provided information about the recently approved school board policy that allows ex-felons to volunteer in schools. This policy will become effective July 1, 2017. Regulations that will guide the implementation of this policy will be developed prior to that time.

Questions were raised about the application process for Dearington Elementary School for Innovation and who to increase the diversity of applicants. Dr. Brabrand explained that the process has been altered so that student applications now include the review of behavior, grades, and attendance. He also stated that there were more applications for DESI this year. He thinks that under the leadership of its current principal, DESI should see more applicants within the next two years.

Opportunities and instructional programs are not available for gifted students at the middle school level. Parents are concerned that there are no chances for students who want to be challenged, and they are becoming bored. Dr. Brabrand explained that the school administration is working to infuse more gifted opportunities for students in middle school. Teachers are receiving training in instructional strategies for teaching gifted and advanced students.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.