

## District Parent Council Agenda October 5, 2016

### Agenda Cards

Participants were asked to share questions/topics for the “lightning round” at the end.

### Welcome

### Attendance

Springboro High School: Kary Steele and Stephanie Humanchuk

Springboro Junior High School: Shelley Hoy and Kim Cooper

Springboro Intermediate: Laura Covitz and Courtney Perry

Five Points Elementary: Jenny Nijak and Meghan Ruffing

Dennis Elementary: Tracy Roberts and Heather Gosselin

Clearcreek Elementary: Janan Anderson

Administration: Dan Schroer, Karen DeRosa, Kyle Martin, Jon Franks, Diane Stacy, Terrah Hunter, Traci Griffen, Amy Byrne

The role of the District Parent Council was discussed by Superintendent Dan Schroer.

- DPC considers district-wide questions
- Please take concerns to the building principal first.
- Contact information:
  - Dan Schroer, Superintendent
  - [dschroer@springboro.org](mailto:dschroer@springboro.org)
  - 937-748-3960

Karen DeRosa led a discussion/review of the survey notes from last year’s group as the starting point for this year’s group. (The list of issues discussed is attached at end of minutes)

### Agenda Card Topics “Lightning Round”

District website user experience/Website Calendar difficult to follow

Response:

- Please use filter to pull only list of events by building. Clicking on each event allows for download to electronic calendars.
- Calendar was also the most criticized element of previous site. So, the district went in a different direction with this year’s calendar.
- The two-page year at a glance board approved school district calendar is uploaded under Parent Resources/Documents in the EXPLORE menu.

Daily ice cream sales in Elementary building cafeterias

Response: Repeat concern. Each building sets expectation. The ice cream is offered within federal school lunch guidelines.

Who selects Classified I Make an EPIC Difference Awards?

Response: The building staff in each building, and the transportation/maintenance staff.

With the increasing need for social and emotional supports in the elementary buildings, will the district consider putting two full-time counselors in each building (rather than 1.5)?

Response:

- Student needs and staffing are always under review.
- The district is adding a number of initiatives to focus on social-emotional health of students.
- This is the job of all--not only the counselors
- DPC key influence in working toward full time counselor at SI

Why are there so many changes to the school calendar? When is calendar decided?

Response: Usually the Board of Education approves the district calendar 18-24 months ahead of the school year. However, changes can be made any time. This year, the administrators asked to move a professional development day from March to November so that the training could be put to use in this school year. This change will also be approved for the 17-18 school year. We have not had more changes to the calendar than usual. We try to limit the number of changes. We announce all changes through all district channels when they are made.

SHS Question: Why can't students see the past tests or quizzes in order to study for the future?

Response: This varies by class and department. Mr. Martin agreed to meet with the parent asking this question.

With numerous sleep studies, will the district consider later start times for secondary buildings?

Response: Transportation guides this decision. It is reviewed every year. We are limited by the number of buses and drivers we have. After school athletics and activities are also a factor in the secondary start times. The DPC requested the district to study the possibility of flipping the elementary and secondary start times. This request will be forwarded to Executive Director of Operations John Pennell.

*Next Meeting is December 7, 2016.*

2015-2016 survey info

This is a list in random order of issues discussed at DPC. Most of these issues were discussed at more than one meeting since 2014. Please tell us if you felt that DPC's conversation on each issue was productive or informative.

	<b>Yes, this was productive/Informative for the DPC.</b>	<b>No opinion.</b>	<b>No, this was not productive/informative for the DPC.</b>
Ice Cream in Elementary Cafeterias	4	2	2
Twin Days - Spirit Days	2	4	2
Make-up work	4	3	1
Progress Book - consistency	6	0	2

"Zero" as a grade	3	4	1
Shortage of substitute teachers	7	1	0
Need for additional counseling staff	5	2	2
Character education	3	4	0
Parent Programs / Parent support classes	3	3	2
Perfect Attendance	2	3	2
EPIC mission / vision	8	0	0

STEM / STEAM education	4	4	0
Volunteer needs	6	1	1
Volunteer appreciation	2	3	2
High School Program of Studies	5	3	0
District Calendar	9	0	0
Hours vs. Days (changes to snow days)	8	1	0
TenMarks / Elementary Math	4	3	1

Pay to Participate Fees	3	5	0
Athletic Camps	1	5	1
District Budget and possible future levy questions	7	2	0
Elementary birthday treats	2	3	2
Gifted placement (specifically in math)	6	1	1
School fees	7	2	0
EPIC Teaching Award planning	9	0	0

Other

0

5

0

## What other questions or issues would you like to see the DPC consider in the future?(5 responses)

The more students the more reps from that school. I honestly do not think two is enough per school. SI has the same representation as the High School and elementary schools. This does not seem right to me. I can think of others that would enjoy being a part of this and wish they could.

This is only an example: When making or thinking about making a sudden change, such as raising the student parking fee, you may want to run these kind of changes (or changes considered) by the DPC. There was a lot of negative feedback you could have spared yourself if you'd mentioned this increase in a meeting. There was a better way to approach the increase. You could still have your increase, but the parents on DPC may have had better ideas on how to introduce/announce it. Use DPC members as an idea springboard. See how we react to these changes first, instead of just lobbing them into the general public.

start time for school - reversing which schools start earlier

Suspension vs Expulsion for bomb threats, drug situations, and bullying/violence/threats

Special education integration in the classroom

Later school starting times for older students

Pay to play fees(I missed the meeting where this was discussed).

## Please share any other feedback that may help us to improve the DPC experience for parents as well as for the our schools.(2 responses)

I feel this group needs to meet once a month and if a meeting needs to be rescheduled for some reason it should be done in a timely manor not cancelled all together. I think a list of parents on DPC should be listed on the district web site with an appropriate email address. I have enjoyed being part of this group and hope those that come after me continue to help the district and parents partner better.

Even if a conversation topic was "productive or informative," I don't feel like our parent opinions mattered much at all - the district simply informed us as to why or how things came to be, but didn't seem to care if parents feel otherwise (i.e. the ice cream issue, which STILL bothers both parents AND teachers at the elementary schools). I also felt like we weren't included on the biggest district changes - informing us the day of (or day before) the Board meeting about the principal changes was a joke (no time for input or feedback AT ALL!), and the overhaul of the Jr High course requirements/new courses added was NEVER discussed at DPC (we could have saved a lot of headaches with our insights prior to releasing the poorly written notes to Jr High parents)