

Northwest October Meeting Minutes

Introduction

- Dr. Maher introduced himself, Jamey Falkenbury, and allowed the parents to each introduce themselves. He thanked everyone for attending, informed them of the schedule change going forward, and jumped into the agenda.
- Mr. Falkenbury introduced the day's concepts to parents and turned it over to them to air their primary concerns and wants out of the PAC.

Discussion

- Parent A's primary concern is the lack of parental involvement in the classroom.
- Parent B cited concerns about charter school funding and wanting to use state funds for capital improvements in charters.
- Parent C was chiefly concerned by how long and difficult the IEP process is and cited discontent with the general processes for getting disabled students the support and resources they need. Also expressed concern over school safety.
- Parent D stated that school safety issues are a huge concern, as well as the growing rates of addiction amongst students. Parent D also expressed that nepotism is a fairly significant problem in their district's hiring practices.
- Parent C asserted that school safety in relation to gun violence is not their only concern, but things like school culture and bullies should also be considered when determining school safety measures.

Conclusion:

- Mr. Falkenbury explained which issues are generally held at the state v. local level and discussed ways that the parents can enact change at the local level for some of these issues. Mr. Falkenbury and Dr. Maher then thanked the parents for their involvement once again and restated the scheduling plan going forward.

Southwest October Meeting Minutes

Introduction

- Dr. Maher introduced himself, Jamey Falkenbury, and allowed the parents to each introduce themselves. He thanked everyone for attending, informed them of the schedule change going forward, and jumped into the agenda.
- Mr. Falkenbury introduced the day's concepts to parents and discussed Superintendent Truitt's goal for parents to act as conduits to their community. He then turned it over to the parents to express their primary goals and concerns.

Discussion

- Parent A expressed interest in ensuring neurodivergent students are included in the regular classrooms whenever possible, rather than relegated to other classrooms that don't serve their needs well either. Also stated concern over school safety and ensuring parents are aware of where their children actually stand academically.
- Parent B requested more information on the renewable system that allows some schools to operate more like charter schools. Parent B also expressed concern over IEPs and improving the relationship between parents and IEP teams.
- Parent C was primarily concerned with academic standardization across the state.
- Parent D expressed that their primary concern is over educational attainment and ensuring that minority students attain the same level of education as their white counterparts.
- Parent E stated that their chief interest is exceptional children and easing the process of getting the right resources to students who need it, rather than just focusing on the data.
- Parent F said they're worried about the workload we're putting on teachers in light of recent book bans, book cataloging requirements, information to parents, etc

Conclusion

- Mr. Falkenbury explained which issues are generally held at the state v. local level and discussed ways that the parents can enact change at the local level for some of these issues. Mr. Falkenbury and Dr. Maher then thanked the parents for their involvement once again and restated the scheduling plan going forward.

Northeast October Meeting Minutes

Introduction

- Dr. Taylor introduced himself, Jamey Falkenbury, and allowed the parents to each introduce themselves. He thanked everyone for attending, informed them of the schedule change going forward, and jumped into the agenda.
- Ms. Copley introduced the day's concepts to parents and turned it over to them to air their primary concerns and wants out of the PAC.

Discussion

- Parent A expressed concern over the recent acceleration of book bans and increasing partisanship of the school boards, the inconsistency with which funding is applied for specialists, and the lack of school psychologists.
 - Dr. Taylor discussed the fact that there are over 100 open psychologists positions, but low rates of psychologists graduating in the state.
- Parent B's primary concern was how difficult it is to get your student into kindergarten if they don't meet the cutoff. They expressed that parent choice was not as important as testing procedures in schools and that the tests do not consider the whole child.
- Parent C was chiefly concerned with teacher pay and how the lack of competitive pay has led to decreased retention rates.
- Parent D stated that access to and funding for mental health resources for students in charter schools is of chief concern.
- Parent C asserted that another issue with the lack of teacher retention is the Dual Language Immersion program in their district has been suffering due to a lack of qualified and consistent teachers.

Conclusion:

- Dr. Taylor discussed North Carolina's leading role in learning loss and what the state is doing for social-emotional learning. Ms. Copley explained which issues are generally held at the state v. local level and discussed ways that the parents can enact change at the local level for some of these issues. Dr. Taylor then thanked the parents for their involvement once again and restated the scheduling plan going forward.

Western October Meeting Minutes

Introduction

- Dr. Taylor introduced himself and allowed the parents to each introduce themselves. He thanked everyone for attending, informed them of the schedule change going forward, and jumped into the agenda.
- Ms. Copley introduced the day's concepts to parents and turned it over to them to air their primary concerns and wants out of the PAC.

Discussion

- Parent A's chief concern was school safety and the lack of transparency around school safety procedures. They also stated that children with IEPs are often not included in the safety procedure plans.
- Parent B stated that the lack of funding to schools is of concern and that there aren't enough parents involved in school education who aren't already passionate about education.
- Parent C was chiefly concerned with increasing teacher quality, teacher pay, and teacher retention rates.
- Parent D stated that the increasing share of students with mental health issues and substance abuse issues is of significant concern to them.
- Parent E asserted that their child's school library funding had dried up due to the politics of libraries and book bans. They also expressed concern over the hoops – and financial barriers – bus drivers have to go through to become bus drivers, in spite of critical shortages in many areas.

Conclusion:

- Dr. Taylor discussed North Carolina's leading role in learning loss and what the state is doing for social-emotional learning. Ms. Copley explained which issues are generally held at the state v. local level and discussed ways that the parents can enact change at the local level for some of these issues. Dr. Taylor then thanked the parents for their involvement once again and restated the scheduling plan going forward.

Southeast Meeting

- **Dr. Jordan did introductions, gave his credentials, and asked all members to introduce themselves.**
- **Dr. Jordan and Daniel talked about governance and the many levels of NC Education. How certain things are delineated in the state. Parents presented their issues during this segment and Dr. Jordan and Daniel answered how best to address those issues and also provided contact information to people in authority in certain areas.**

Parent Concerns

- **Parent:**
 - **Asked for difference between early colleges and other education platforms (Charter Schools, etc.)**
- **Parent:**
 - **Talked about NCVA and her outreach for the school. Wants to know what she can do to help better the school / program itself.**
- **Parent:**
 - **Why are we forcing kids back into low-performing schools. What is the difference / governance over a Traditional Public Schools vs. a Charter School.**
- **Parent:**
 - **Asked if there were any free virtual options that allow us to have kids stay in virtual schools but in the public school system.**
- **Parent:**
 - **What are the results of a school being taken over?**
- **Parent:**
 - **Talked about how the best and brightest are leaving and asked about what they can do to stay.**

Dr. Jordan closed out the meeting by summarizing the topics discussed.

Piedmont-Triad

- **Dr. Jordan introduced himself, gave his credentials, and asked all members to introduce themselves. Next, Dr. Jordan introduced the topic of governance and the ways that power is delegated across the state regarding Education. Daniel added input and also stated upcoming meetings / next steps moving forward.**
- **Parents then each one by one introduced their big issues that they felt needed to be addressed and Dr. Jordan and Daniel addressed who is best to help fix those issues.**

Issues and Concerns

- **Parent:**
 - **Universal Pre-K based on experience. Several parents agreed that this was important. Dr. Jordan mentioned however that this is based over in DHHS.**
 - **Stated issues regarding HVAC Systems, ESSER Funds, and other Infrastructure. Touched on the Education Lottery.**
- **Parent:**
 - **Help identify those who may have a suspected disability. Early intervention is key. Also said School Safety was a localized issue (on top of it happening nationwide) (2 Schools in the area that went into lockdown)**
 - **Other parents are concerned that they are not being heard. Some mentioned parents being removed from meetings even if there is respectful dialogue.**
- **Parent:**
 - **Learning loss, School Report Cards; Parents awareness, or lack thereof, of this phenomena. Breaches in Security so we need to upgrade that.**
 - **Dr. Jordan mentioned DPI offices that are involved in post-COVID recovery as well as School Safety.**
- **Parent:**
 - **Security issue. A metal detector not working at the schools she visited. Schools don't have staff to monitor the detectors nor all of the entrances and exits.**
- **Parent:**
 - **31% graduate in NC and attain workforce value by 24. Wants a concise way of what the goal is in NC Public Schools**
- **Parent asked if there is a tracking system for students not in school; another asked if anything was being done about the gap in student performance vs. perception.**

North Central Region Parents Advisory Commission 10/12/2022

- **Andrew and other members introduced themselves and the goal of the Parents Advisory Commission**
- **Jamey Falkenbury gave a presentation on Governance and allowed for parents to ask questions / bring concerns. Jamey then answered whether they were state, federal, or local and how they could best be addressed.**
 - **Parent:**
 - **Staffing shortages is a national issue (compared different industries). Big challenge in the public-school space for logistics reason especially when you see some of these changes regarding transportation Safety as well is a big issue.**
 - **Parent:**
 - **Teacher burnout is real. Daughter had numerous bullying issues in the school and had to withdraw her due to that. Title 1 schools are trying to raise money but they cannot. Added burden to the school itself. More language more STEM courses.**
 - **Parent:**
 - **Safety, Mental Health, Challenges with allocating resources, and mental health gets the shorttail of those resources.**
 - **Parent:**
 - **Bussing. Consistency in Math/English levels; Charter School Transparency: IEP / 504 plans; how far do they have to go with certain things. Application of Open Meetings Law**
 - **Parent:**
 - **Why students are not keeping up in general.**
 - **Kristie VanAuken gave a presentation on NC Portrait of a Graduate and mentioned it would be published on the website. She answered questions from parents about internships, involvement among different levels of schools (HS vs. Middle) and the program itself.**
 - **Kristie: We don't want to start in 8th grade, we want to start in kindergarten and have them make those 'I Can' Statements**
 - **A parent brought up the point of internships and expanding the opportunity to local and national companies. Kristie mentioned the goal to expand to work-based / workforce development goals shortly.**
 - **Andrew closed out the meeting by talking about school opportunities and asking parents how we scale the competencies in the Portrait of a Graduate program.**

Sandhills Region Parents Advisory Commission Meeting 10/19/2022 at 1300

- **“What keeps You up at Night?” Discussion on Governance**
 - **Parent:**
 - **COVID has dampered a lot of things. Whole new curriculum started this year, teachers are learning with the students. It’s a big shock to the students who have been learning a certain way for ‘x’ number of years**
 - **Andrew gave a brief explanation about standards and what DPI does in that regard.**
 - **College kids are not ready especially in regards to writing. Talked about a particular model**
 - **Parent:**
 - **Talked about similar issues in curriculum as another parent, school had good support staff to allow open dialogue with staff and other parents. Stressed importance of Nurse / Social workers in schools.**
 - **School Safety was an important issue for all parents: One mentioned that there was a concern about adding drills to address other potential entrance avenues to schools such as those that were exterior facing. Additionally, parents wanted to make sure kids had a safe space to talk about what/how they are feeling. to conceal their feelings or cover up what’s happening to their children.**
 - **Parent was concerned about engagement however her big concern was that in rural areas the teachers don’t seem to understand the kids.**
- **Andrew began discussion on new School Performance Grades. He touched on statistics about poorer districts vs. more affluent districts and gave an overview on Operation Polaris.**
 - **Andrew and Parents moved into answering / discussing discussion questions.**
- **Next Steps and meeting adjournment.**