**Linden STEAM Academy**

Governing Board Meeting

Attendees: Linda Bell, Richard Bransfield, Diana Buonopane, Nicholas Catoggio, Kathleen Cutting, Laura Degelmann, John Froio, Rachana Gray, Melissa Lightbody, Linda Patrie, Ann Schiro,Susan Terban, Leonard Young

April 24, 2013 6:00 AM

* **Uniform Committee Report to  Parents**  -  **held in auditorium**
  + Richard Bransfield went of the letter that was sent home, highlighting the key points.
    - He mentioned that several parents have already donated extra clothes for the school. He is keeping the extra clothes in a closet in his office. He will use the items as needed for kids who come to school without the appropriate clothing.
    - They are looking at grant money to get uniforms for the families that can’t afford them.
    - Some stores such as Sparks offer money back for uniforms purchased. This money would also be used for families that can’t afford uniforms.
    - While no one expects that the uniforms will stop bullying. It will help the kids who come to school wearing the same clothes each day.
    - He explained that he is planning to put together all the questions and place them in an FAQ on the school website, along with a copy of the letter.
  + Questions/Comments from the audience:
    - Question: Will there be any requirements for shoes? Answer: No.
    - Question: Will fleece be allowed? Answer: As long as it is navy blue with no logo on it.
    - Question: There are many shades of Khaki, which one is acceptable? Answer: Any shade will be accepted.
    - Question: Why was color white removed from the choices for the tops? Answer: The students didn’t want it. They requested it be removed.
    - Comment: Regardless of what the students want, please consider bringing back the color white. White is much easier to shop for than yellow is. Response: We will take it under consideration.
    - Questions: Does the combination matter? Can they choose to wear navy pants and navy polos? Or do they need to wear certain color shirts with certain color pants? Answer: They can wear any combination of the correct colors.
    - A confirmation was requested that leggings or tights would be required with skirts. Response: That is correct. The colors are stated in the letter.
    - Question: What is the appropriate length for skirts? Answer: They must be knee length.
    - Question: Are they specific stores that we must use? Answer: No. As long as the colors are correct. A list of stores and prices that the board has found will be added to the website for reference.
    - Question: Will there be a requirement for specific gym clothes? Answer: No.
  + Richard Bransfield took a moment to add that T-Shirts have been added to the list. He is planning to have a logo contest for the kids so that they vote on the final design. Also we will have uniform swaps, twice a year. Where families can trade uniforms that no longer fit with each other. Jadeane Sica, the PTO president attended the Wayland schools uniform swap and was impressed with how many families walked away with uniforms and spirit wear for little or no money.
  + The PTO will be sending out another spirit wear order form. The spirit wear will be acceptable under the uniform policy.
* Task Board Development – Was tabled to discuss school start and end times.
  + Richard Bransfield explained that he needed to pin down the start and end time for school next year so that he could start working on schedules.
  + A recap, this past year we exercised our autonomy and had a different start and end time from the rest of the district. This difference gave the teachers 30 more minutes of face time with the students. It didn’t however; give the teachers much time for team meetings and prep.
  + Kathleen Cutting suggested that a ballot be put together for the staff meeting on April 25th to see how the teachers feel about the schedule.
  + This year’s schedule has the teacher’s time from 7:45-2:45 and the K-8th grade student time from 8:00am-2:30pm.
  + If we go back to the contracted time, then there will be 30 minutes less kid face time. Richard Bransfield said he would go with whatever the teachers wanted, but if they have less face time, then they teachers would have to help figure out what would be removed from the day.
  + The Bay State grant requires 120 minutes of ELA and 90 minutes of math. So those can’t be altered without risking the grant. Although they could find ways to use Social studies and Science to add to the ELA time.
  + The contracted time groups grades K-6 together and grades 7-8 together. The contract was made based on the old format when we had junior high schools. The 6th grade wants to be included with the 7th and 8th grade since they also change for individual classes.
  + It was decided to postpone the staff meeting and to give the staff a chance to understand the issues before making them vote on it.
* General updates from Richard Bransfield:
  + He will be looking to have ANET come in to work with grades 6-8 for Math and ELA.
  + He is 99% sure he will be able to hire a Tech Ed Teacher for next year.
  + He heard that the Starbase Academy may have been affected by the Sequester.
* Next Meetings:
  + Wednesday May 8th at 7am in the library
  + Wednesday May 22nd at 6pm in the library.