**Friends of Syracuse Latin General Board Meeting**

May 15, 2018

Welcoming and Introductions – Brea Allers

-Dr. Rob Diflorio, Syracuse City School Executive Director of Early Childhood & Elementary

 Schools

-Nate Franz, Syracuse City School Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Presentations – Dr. Diflorio and Mr. Franz

* Thank you for having us here! We are here to report out on the Middle School planning.
* We’ve had four meetings, with randomly selected participants of teachers and parents. The team also includes Nate Franz, Tim Moon (Chief Director of Technology) and Pam Odem (Executive Director of Middle Schools)
* We gave a survey to get feedback from parents and students
* From the survey, we heard parents ask for students to leave middle school with good study skills, good research skills, and time management skills
* We are planning to continue to get feedback and have a proposal in place by Dec 2018 to present to the Superintendent
* We did a walk through the building to look at how many students we can hold. A typical middle school holds about 125 students. Syracuse Latin’s capacity is 75 students
* Curriculum and academic programming- we will ask for feedback from parents in the fall so we can match the vision here at Syracuse Latin with the state and district constraints, like NY State Standards
* The amount of advance courses and high school credits that students can leave Syracuse Latin school with is really important so students are ready to take the higher level courses upon entering high schools
* We are already looking at how to continue the Spanish programing in middle school so students can be on their way to being bilingual by the end of high school
* Parent Question: Are students traveling between school sites for advanced courses? Typically all advanced courses would be held at Syracuse Latin.
* Distance learning is available, but it is preferred for courses to be taught at Syracuse Latin
* 7-12 teachers are certified to teach a specific subject area so they can teach high school level courses as well as grade level curriculum
* We want a balanced schedule with high level courses but also including arts, enrichments, and language but the team is not quite at the scheduling process yet
* We will try to stretch students and provide supports so all students can take higher level courses no matter what their academic levels
* Currently we do send students to other schools, by bus, to play modified (7th and 8th grade) and high school level sports. School have combined teams.
* In all K-8 schools, Kindergarten through 8th grade students ride the bus together, buses are offered for students who live 1.5 miles away
* Start and end times are sometimes different for the elementary and middle schools in K-8 schools so students may arrive or dismiss at different times
* Clubs for the 6-8 students are offered at the middle schools and we can decide what clubs to start depending on what students are interested in
* We can support a middle school with 75 students in each grade in 6-8. We will make decisions on students schedules (example: how many advanced courses and/or enrichment classes) in future planning with feedback from parents and students.
* Chief Moon says there will continue to be open testing for each grade of students, where seats are available, in each grade through 8th grade
* Semester long enrichment clusters can be discussed at a building level, there is a lot of room in a typical schedule to add those types of enrichment options in for students
* The physical building is not going to change, our building is not scheduled for renovations for a while. We will get new furniture and resources depending on the courses available (example: 3D printer or science lab). This building has housed a K-8 model in the past so some parts of the building are set up for those needs
* We will continue to phase in one grade per year, not opening up all 6-8 at one time
* Dramas and school plays for the middle schools are done at Syracuse Latin as well
* Principal Manard and Vice Principal Hunter will be staying at Syracuse Latin and administer for all K-8 students
* Our CFO (Chief Financial Officer) is confident that we will be able to support new programs in the future, within reason, that we might offer
* We would follow the SCSD Code of Conduct, it is online if parents would like to become familiar with it, schools teach the code of conduct expectations upfront in the beginning of the year
* Guidance Counselors, social workers hold restorative conferences and help with the lower level behaviors that need to be addressed
* SCSD is committed to Personalized Learning and Syracuse Latin will be as well. Every school has a different model that evolves as it moves forward.

President’s Report - Brea Allers

Board Nominations for 2018-19

* Our bylaws state that our board positions are a one year term
* This year’s PTO board positions are up for elections -
* A Full Nomination Committee was unable to be formed. However, a Nomination point person has volunteered. Thank you!
Nominees can be gathered without a committee 1.) Individuals may put their own names forward 2.) Others can nominate individuals (Nomination volunteers will confirm that the nominee then wants to run) 3.) Our single nomination point person may solicit nominees herself. It is advised that our individual nomination member discuss any nominees she wants to approach with the rest of the group beforehand and, under no circumstance should this member promise a position to an individual.
* In your email, simply state your name or the name of person you are nominating, a brief entry about yourself, and why you would like to be considered for x position. If you nominate someone else, please provide that person’s contact info so a volunteer can then verify whether or not he or she wants to be nominated. ● Deadline for nominations is June 4, 2018.
Elections will be held at the PTO meeting on June 12, 2018.
* PTO Board open positions descriptions:
President – The president gives direction and leadership to the entire PTO organization. S/he presides at all general and board meetings, prepares agendas, crafts the year’s budget, approves expenses, communicates with school administration, and handles building permits and event logistics.
Vice President – The vice president assists the president, aids in any delegated responsibilities, and carries out the president’s duties in his or her absence or inability to serve. S/he is also in charge of PTO communications, including the solicitation of volunteers, managing the PTO Facebook group, and making sure notices go out for upcoming meetings.
Treasurer – The treasurer maintains all funds in the approved PTO bank account, keeps full and accurate records of all receipts and expenditures, including donations, presents a statement of accounts at board meetings and at the end of the year, works with the president to create an annual budget, and schedules filing taxes.
Secretary - The secretary records all agendas and minutes from board and general PTO meetings, acts as custodian of organization’s records, prepares copies and handles correspondences, keeps a copy of the bylaws available at meetings, and maintains an attendance list from meetings.
Social Committee Chair – The social committee chair is responsible for coordinating and overseeing PTO social events. S/he is not in charge of personally running all social events (though he or she is expected to manage at least one), but rather acts as a point person for the PTO’s social activities and can report back to the board and general membership on these events.
* Please email syracuselatinpto@gmail.com by June 4th if interested

Syracuse Latin Spirit Sale

* There is one more week for our Latin Spirit online sale!
* Here is the link to do some last minute shopping!
* https://www.companycasuals.com/SyracuseLatinSchool/b.jsp?id=125&ln=-125

 Teacher Appreciation Week

* Five days of amazing treats and food!
* Thank you for Trisha Philipson and Kristina Kamery for organizing!
* Thank you to everyone who donated supplies and treats for the staff.

Additional Information

* Sports equipment from 4th grade- everything was ordered and set to arrive tomorrow
* Gannon’s Night- still waiting to hear how much money we raised

Treasurer’s Report - Margaret Chajka

* Will do full year report with print outs for everyone next month

New Business –

* Grade Level(s) Dance - Meredith Austin & Brandi Mosier
* Multi-Level grade level dances here at the Syracuse Latin gym on June 8th, two separate dances K-2 and 3-5 both about an hour long. We will be looking for volunteers to help out. We might sell snacks to cover cost of decorations but it is a free event. We will have a volunteer parent DJ.

Adjourn 7 PM

Next PTO Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th 6-7PM childcare available in the library courtesy of Parent University