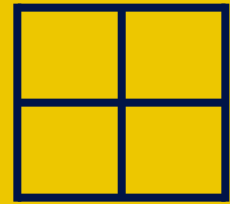


THE WHITNALL WINDOW



SUMMER
2022



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The Superintendent's Message

I'm sure we're all familiar with receiving an email from a company with the subject line "Rate Our Service." Perhaps you give a quick star rating, perhaps you write a detailed review, but I imagine that, more often than not, the email is opened and closed, sent immediately to your trash folder, or you look for that unsubscribe link hidden at the bottom of the email. Fortunately, that is not the case when we seek input from the Whitnall community. I'm reminded of all the times stakeholders have engaged with us during my time as superintendent, and I feel grateful.



When I entered the district in 2016, I gathered input from the team I was joining in order to gain a better understanding of Whitnall's history and the existing perspectives. When we sought a facilities referendum in 2017, we gathered input from staff and families in order to gain an understanding of the needs, and we gathered input from the community in order to prioritize projects. In 2018, when school safety moved to the front of the national conversation around schools, we engaged community partners such as local law enforcement to bolster security. And when COVID-19 began presenting challenges, we engaged with families around learning and engaged more community partners like local health departments and other school districts.

Although I cannot predict what challenges lie ahead, we are entering the 2022-23 school year unburdened by urgent or external circumstances. We can wholeheartedly continue the progress that has been made on academic priorities; we've updated our K-5 social studies curriculum, our K-3 phonics curriculum, our 6-8 math curriculum, and we are transitioning our K-8 literacy curriculum. Like everything else, our work on academic priorities requires (You guessed it!) stakeholder input. Within this issue, you will find information on how we are engaging the Whitnall community. Don't just rate our service, be all in!

Lisa L. Olson

Dr. Lisa L. Olson, Superintendent

#whitnALLIN

Reorg & Retreat

Since the last school board election, the board has undergone a reorganization and has participated in a board retreat. At the April 25 meeting, following nominations and voting, Kevin Stachowiak became the board president, Quin Brunette maintained his role as Vice President, Jesse Stachowiak became Treasurer, and Jason Craig became Clerk. On May 9, all seven board members participated in a retreat. A consultant led the board in discussion on the fundamentals of a high-functioning board, which include trust, accountability, and supporting the district rather than advancing personal interests. The board reviewed and endorsed protocols for meetings and member conduct and left the retreat with renewed expectations for one another and for their progress as a board.

Liaison Roles

Did you know that Whitnall school board members serve as liaisons to community and parent organizations? This allows for a consistent line of communication between our board and the community members and parents that comprise these groups. Board members communicate what is happening at the board level, while community members and parents communicate what is happening out in the community or at the school level, which our liaisons then share with the entire board. Currently, the liaison roles are as follows: Kevin Stachowiak - Whitnall Middle School PTO, Quin Brunette - Edgerton Elementary PTO, Jesse Stachowiak - Hales Corners Elementary PTO, Jason Craig - Whitnall Middle School PTO and Hales Corners Parks & Rec, Jonathan Cagle - Whitnall High School Booster Club, Nancy Zaborowski - Greenfield Parks & Rec.

Events

On June 5, multiple board members attended the 2022 graduation ceremony (more on this on the next page). Thank you to Kevin Stachowiak, Quin Brunette, Jesse Stachowiak, and Jonathan Cagle for sharing the stage with administration and showing your support for our graduates. On the 4th of July, Kevin and Jesse Stachowiak represented the Whitnall School Board in the Greenfield parade! And on July 12, five of our board members helped facilitate our Hopes for a Whitnall Graduate event (more on this on page 5). Thank you to Quin Brunette, Jonathan Cagle, Jason Craig, and Nancy Zaborowski for facilitating!



Grad Walk & Commencement Ceremony

On June 3, the Class of 2022 visited the elementary schools and the middle school for our annual Grad Walk. Our younger students cheered as the graduates reconnected with their former teachers. This is always such a special day.



On June 5, Whitnall High School held the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2022. This class collectively accepted nearly two million dollars in scholarships! Forty-seven students--about 1/4 of the Class of 2022--maintained high honors during their high school careers. High honors means a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and qualifies a student for laude recognition. The Class of 2022 was the first class to participate in the laude system, which recognizes students not only for their GPAs, but also for the rigor of their academic careers. Students earn laude credits by taking courses that have been identified as the most rigorous, courses that have the potential of college credit, or courses that serve as a capstone for a career pathway. A student's laude score is determined by weighing a student's cumulative GPA against the number of laude credits earned. Fifteen students earned cum laude, four students earned magna cum laude, and four students earned summa cum laude. Congratulations, Class of 2022!



Employee Satisfaction Survey

During the 2021-2022 school year, the district conducted a second round of employee satisfaction surveys. We experienced a very high response rate with over 70% of employees completing the survey. Below are some of the key takeaways from the survey.

It's important to keep in mind that these results are averages from all employees. We are able to gain an even better understanding when we separate the data by employee groups.

We saw increases from the first round of employee satisfaction surveys (2020) that are considered statistically significant. Some items that experienced a statistically significant increase are:

- I am able to establish and maintain a healthy work-life balance
- I believe I can influence decisions in my area of responsibility
- The district is making consistent progress on initiatives
- I feel trusted and valued as an employee
- I receive useful feedback
- Professional development has helped me to better meet the needs of students

The survey also revealed areas for improvement, so we held employee focus groups to gain clarity on how best to address these areas. Then, our Building Leadership Committee had work sessions both independently and with the school board to create action plans, so we can hopefully see improvement in these areas on our next round of employee satisfaction surveys.

To see a more detailed summary of the results, visit the Stakeholder Input section of our Continuous Improvement page. Go to our website (www.whitnall.com). From the menu in the upper right, go to District > About > Continuous Improvement.

Community Survey

In 2017, we conducted our first community survey. This spring, we conducted another round to see if / how the community's priorities have shifted. We had 800 people respond to the survey (up from 632 in 2017). The survey covered four areas: Graduate Success, Overall Satisfaction, General Factors, and Facilities. In the Graduate Success section, we asked respondents to identify which competencies they believe would indicate graduate success. Of the seventeen competencies to choose from, the top five were:

- Financial Literacy (55.8%)
- Communication Skills (53.8%)
- Career Readiness (45.8%)
- Collaboration Skills (37.8%)
- Emotional Development (36.0%)

These results are averages from all respondents, but we are able to look at the results by stakeholder group—parents, staff, or community members.

In the General Factors section, we saw positive responses to many of the statements. The top rated statements are below. The percentages represent how many respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

- The district maintains a safe and secure campus (87%)
- The district has the support of parents and the community (87%)
- The district appropriately maintains school facilities (86%)
- The district employs high quality staff (85%)

Again, these results are averages from all respondents and can be separated by stakeholder group. To view the full survey results, visit our Continuous Improvement webpage.

Hopes for a Whitnall Graduate

On July 12, we held an in-person event as a follow up to the community survey. We held a similar event following the 2017 community survey. Both were called Hopes for a Whitnall Graduate. All parents, staff, community members, and public officials were welcome to attend and we had over 50 attendees! We presented the results from the survey and then facilitated small group discussions and large group activities related to the results. We asked attendees to answer the following questions:

- Are there any “ahas” or wonderings you have about the survey results?
- Are there any updates to graduation requirements you would like considered?
- What activities or events would you suggest for the top five competencies?
- When completing the survey, what indicators did you use to make your ratings?
- What specifically would you recommend using to measure the outcome of delivering a high quality education?

We are so grateful to be in a community that is deeply invested in the success of our students. We appreciate the time, the input, and the constructive conversations. If you would like to join in, consider signing up for our conversation groups! You can sign up by visiting our Continuous Improvement page.

Below are some photos from the event.



Whitnall School Board

If you're looking to stay informed about board business, we are excited to announce that we have moved to BoardDocs, an electronic system for housing the board's schedule, agendas, minutes, and packets. BoardDocs provides a better experience for the public because it is more streamlined and will create a searchable archive of all board meeting content. BoardDocs also houses all board policies. If you visit BoardDocs on a board meeting day, you will find a link to livestream that night's meeting. This provides the opportunity to watch our board meetings from the comfort of your own home! You can also livestream the meetings from our YouTube channel (Just search for "Whitnall Schools"). Once a livestream is finished, the video of that meeting is immediately saved to our channel and can be viewed at any time. Of course you are always welcome to attend in person! Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of every month starting at 6:30 PM in the Community Board Room. To access BoardDocs, visit our website (www.whitnall.com). From the menu in the upper right, go to District > Board of Education > Meetings & Policies. Any notices and the briefs of past meetings can be found at the menu item directly below (Briefs & Notices).

Where to look on BoardDocs:

The screenshot shows the BoardDocs website with the following sections highlighted by arrows:

- Board of Education**: Board Meetings, Minutes & Policies. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of every month and are held in the Community Board Room, unless otherwise noted.
 - MEMBERS**: Kevin Stachowski, President; Quin Brunette, Vice President; Jason Crabo, Clerk; Jesse Stachowski, Treasurer; Karen Mikolajus; Jonathan Cagle; Nancy Zaborowski.
 - UPCOMING MEETINGS**: July 18, 2022; August 8, 2022; August 22, 2022; September 12, 2022; September 26, 2022; October 10, 2022; October 24, 2022; November 14, 2022; November 28, 2022; December 12, 2022; January 9, 2023; January 23, 2023; February 13, 2023; February 27, 2023; March 13, 2023; March 27, 2023; April 10, 2023; April 24, 2023; May 8, 2023; May 22, 2023; June 12, 2023; June 26, 2023.
- Meetings**: Monday, July 18, 2022 SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS MEETING. An arrow points to this section with the text: "Look here for the most recent or the upcoming board meeting".
- MEETINGS** (top navigation): An arrow points to this menu item with the text: "Look here for past agendas, minutes, and packets".
- POLICIES** (top navigation): An arrow points to this menu item with the text: "Look here for board policies".
- Questions about BoardDocs?**: Contact Shari Rodriguez, Executive Assistant at srodriguez@whitnall.com or 414.525.8414. An arrow points to this contact information with the text: "Look here for the board meeting schedule".

Communication

If you're looking to stay informed about what we are communicating to our families at the district level, the public is able to access the archive of our family newsletter, the Connect. Just visit our website and, from the menu in the upper right, go to Families > The Connect. The Connect is a weekly newsletter and the webpage is updated as soon as a new issue is sent. The public is also encouraged to follow us on social media! Whitnall has a Facebook page, a Twitter account, and an Instagram. Our handle is @whitnallschools for all three. Following us on social media is a great way to get regular glimpses of the great things happening in our schools. It is also a great way to hear about recent accomplishments or upcoming events. Please follow us! We are in the process of centralizing family communications and expanding public access. Over the next couple of months, we will be building a communication hub for our families, which will serve as a one stop shop for all communication. The hub will feature the archive of the Connect, but will also feature archives of each school's family newsletter. There will also be a section where we house any letters sent to families. From time to time, the district will send letters separate from the Connect when there is something time-sensitive or something garnering broader attention. For example, if the board calls a special meeting or if students participated in an unexpected safety procedure or if a situation is expected to receive media attention. Finally, the hub will have a place to highlight the most important or timely announcement being shared with parents. This communication hub will be accessible to the public, offering the same convenience of having everything in one place, while offering even more access. With the exception of communication at the classroom level, any community member will be able to receive the communication that district families receive. Watch for the communication hub, arriving for the 22-23 school year! You will navigate there how you would navigate to the Connect now (explained above). The menu item "The Connect" will become "The Communication Hub."



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WSD Board of Education

Kevin Stachowiak	President, Franklin
Quin Brunette	Vice President, Greenfield
Jesse Stachowiak	Treasurer, Greenfield
Jason Craig	Clerk, Franklin
Jonathan Cagle	Member, Hales Corners
Karen Mikolainis	Member, Hales Corners
Nancy Zaborowski	Member, Greenfield



Save the Dates!

Save the date for homecoming 2022! The game will be the evening of September 23rd, and the annual homecoming parade down 116th will be earlier that day. And save the date for Whitnall High School's fall play! There will be performances on December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. But what will the play be? You'll have to watch our website and social media for the announcement. All we can say is that we're about to shake things up.

Newsletter feedback?
Send to
lvasquez@whitnall.com

Follow us on social media!



@whitnallschools for all three!