

Cocoa & Conversation with the Superintendent

September 24th, 2018 (6-7:30)

1. Welcome
 - a. 14 people present including: Superintendent Osario, chair/representatives from Hmong & Latino parent organizations, multiple bicultural liaisons, volunteer coordinator, parents, chairs/officers of other 622 PTO/PTA/PTG organizations
2. 622 Education Foundation
 - a. Non-profit organization that is separate entity from district
 - b. Annual activities/events:
 - i. Fun Run held on October 14th
 - ii. Taste of 622 on November 10th at Tartan, \$10/person
 - iii. Angel Fund – purchase necessities for children in need (i.e. prescription glasses, winter coats, etc.)
 - iv. STAARS Banquet – celebrate high achievers
 - c. Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at the District Education Center #202 from 5-6 PM, option for conference calling available for participants
3. District Update
 - a. Strategic Plan available on website, specific points made include:
 - i. Strategy 1:
 1. Actively listen to +1,700 ISD 622 employees
 2. Offer no charge athletic passes to senior citizens
 3. Focus on alumni to celebrate their achievements & promote continued involvement in ISD 622 (i.e. recent gathering of Class of 1948 graduates from North High School)
 - ii. Strategy 2: responsive teaching within classroom so all cultures are heard
 - iii. Strategy 4: provide high school job fairs to focus on e-learning, skilled labor & opportunities for internships, scholarships & college
 - b. Increased access to funds to improve ISD 622 facilities as the district pays off debt
 - i. Increased funds without increasing taxes
 - ii. Updating elementary spaces
 1. Focus to keep students in district
 - a. Many transfers in northern part of ISD 622 due to crowding
 - b. Create additional space for students with new homes being built within ISD 622
 2. Castle & Richardson renovations will be new face for the school district
 - c. Working to get volunteer coordinators at the high school level
 - d. PIQUE – Parent Involvement for Quality Education
 - i. How to allow students to become more successful
 - e. Heritage Language Test
 - i. Allows native speakers to gain credit for high school & possibly college courses for proficiency in writing, reading & speaking of their native language
 - ii. Offered Spanish only last year, but open to any language available this year
4. Building Share Out

- a. PTO/PTA/PTG
 - i. PTA – participates with national organization & pays dues
 - ii. PTG – parent teacher group (Cowern)
 - iii. Not as active in middle schools or high schools as parents & students are often more involved with booster clubs
 - iv. Work to strengthen across PTO/PTA/PTG groups for additional problem-solving resources
 - b. Hmong & Latino parent groups blossomed since development, actively working to create African American & Somali parent groups
 - i. Hmong parent group working to partner with high schools to create events to celebrate Hmong New Year, help with parent understanding (navigate technology, MCA interpretation, etc.)
 - 1. Time management difficult as parents often work 2nd shift due to skillset
 - 2. High participation at once a month with requests to increase meetings to at least twice a month
 - ii. Latino parent group worked on communication
 - 1. Difficult to have translators available for multiple commitments (i.e. conference nights with many families & students)
 - 2. U of MN speakers guiding parents in navigating education system
 - iii. Active American Indian population
 - iv. Parent groups could make announcements at meetings to gather volunteers for various events
 - c. Bicultural liaisons in numerous languages employed throughout ISD 622
 - i. Interpreters spread thin throughout the district
 - ii. Could consider bicultural liaison (limited availability), parent, high school student, etc. to assist in translating at meetings
 - iii. Use of RoboCall to send out automated messages (email, text or call) in another language
 - 1. Use Google Translate to initially create message, then have bicultural liaison or Language Line review for correct translation before sending
5. Miscellaneous
- a. SRO – Student Resource Officer
 - i. 3 within ISD 622, Tina SRO for Oakdale schools
 - ii. Uniformed presence within school, but also police officer outside of school
 - 1. Involved kids = less reactive situations
 - 2. Available to discuss or present on: school climate, parent resources, work through reactive situations, safety concerns, DARE concepts, cyber bullying, etc.
 - b. Additional event/fundraising opportunities:
 - i. Ice Night at the Polar Arena – use for free with participants bringing their own skates
 - ii. Paint Nights as a family (i.e. similar to Wine & Paint events)
6. Next Meeting: January 28th, 6-7:30 at the District Education Center