

## WLCSC Community Forum 9/16/2019, notes from Sarah Wassgren

These notes are taken by the Jr/Sr HS Parent Council representative. They are not official minutes.

### WL Jr/Sr High School

#### Construction

- Phase 1 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is Nov. 25 @ 4pm
  - Cafeteria seating should be ready next week (4<sup>th</sup> wk of Sept)
  - Kitchen should reopen in October, after fall break
  - Pool should be open just after Thanksgiving,
    - PE classes will swim during the Spring semester
    - First few weeks of swim/dive season practice will be in the evenings at Jeff HS, as last year. They very generously allow us practice space in their pool for no charge.
    - Chris Kinge is the new aquatics director. Plan to have Boiler Aquatics in the evenings at the high school pool.
- Phase 2 in the NE corner has begun
  - Demolition has begun for the new library. Replacing the original 1937 brick & mortar with a steel structure.
  - Begun work on the stair tower.
  - Forecast completion in Spring 2020
    - Ground level will be the library
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will be general education classrooms, including a new film literature / editing suite
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will have three new science labs

Parking – VP Eric Ulrich is looking into it

- \*Hopefully\* will regain a portion of the parking lot with the completion of Phase 1
- May be able to open up parking passes to non-transfer Juniors

#### Parent Council

- Budgeted ~\$5K in teacher grants this year. This increase in the typical grant budget reflects a spending down of our savings' surplus built up over many years.
- Have approved the first grant: funding parent suicide prevention training booklets (QPR). Each of the three parent councils are working with the counseling staff to host evening sessions for parents.

### WL Intermediate School

Big field trips were successful: 6<sup>th</sup> grade paddled down the Wabash River, 5<sup>th</sup> grade at IN Dunes. They are very happy with their new building.

#### Parent Council

- \$3K teacher grant budget this year
- \$50 teacher start up granted (as in prior years)
- Fundraising is underway for a new GaGa pit, and other playgrounds improvements

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### WL Elementary School / Cumberland

#### Construction

- Major construction is complete! Just working on last punch list items.

#### New Cafeteria - Such a big improvement!

- Pleased to return to reusable lunch trays, real silverware, also eliminated plastic straws
- School lunch participation is way up
- More fresh fruit options, vegetables are freshly steamed and MUCH more appealing

#### Multi-Purpose room – already getting lots of use

- Blood drive evening of 9/17/19 (for parents, not kids)
- Girl Scouts, and soon Boy Scout, meeting space
- Parent Council
  - Welcome Coffee – 80 parents attended
  - First PC mtg – 20 parents attended
- Purdue alumni astronaut coming in October to speak to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

#### Parent Council

- \$7000 in teacher grants anticipated this year, they are tying the final amount to fall fundraising success
- \$50 teacher start up granted (at the start of both semesters)
- Looking at spending down their bank account surplus on new playground equipment, will be a \$15K allocation
- QPR parent training scheduled for 10/22 @ 5:30-7pm
- Fall Festival (formerly Winter Carnival) is this Saturday 9/21 @ 2-4pm
- Book fair is next week (4<sup>th</sup> wk of Sept)

### WLSEF (WL Schools Educational Foundation)

#### Homecoming Parade & Tailgate this Friday 9/20 7-8pm Cumberland Park / Football fields

- Looking for 4 more adult volunteers
- Will have a bounce house, quarterback ball toss. At the alumni tent: ice cream & stickers
- Not a fundraiser, but a fun community event

#### Fresh Thyme Market Tailgate, Saturday 9/21 11-2pm

- WLSEF is the designated charity for their tailgate!
- During their grand opening, FT donated \$1 of each reusable bag sold to WLSEF

#### Teacher Grants

- \$7K budgeted, fall grant submissions

#### WLSEF Board Openings

- Currently have 14 board members, may have up to 21 members
  - Need help especially with the Event Committee

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- Lindsay Walls will send a notice to Amy Austin, Parent Council newsletter editor (for all three schools!)

### Scarlett & Gray Auction (name change from WestSide Story)

- Moving to a Friday evening, still in April
- More casual event, less expensive tickets

### Capital campaign

- Have raised \$2.4 M of \$4M goal
- Still have naming opportunities for new construction wing
- Naming auditorium seats / sidewalk bricks are available, see <http://www.wlsef.org/rdp-project/>

## WL City Parks & Rec

### Construction

- Broken ground on the new athletic center at Salisbury & Kalberrer. Plan is for a soft opening in Dec 2020.
  - Wellness Center: 73,000 sq ft, 3 gyms, pool, indoor walking track, indoor playground, art & dance classrooms.
- Morton Center construction is also slated for completion in Dec 2020
- Installed Happy Hollow Park entrance sculptures. There will be a base for the Happy Hollow Road praying mantis. Currently working on how to get power to the sculpture to light up the fireflies at night.

Open position: youth basketball coach

City Newsletter was published

[https://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/documents/1567689230\\_24244.pdf](https://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/documents/1567689230_24244.pdf)

Highlights many upcoming events:

- GlobalFest Sat 9/21 @ 2-10pm. Now is an outdoor street fair, food, lots of music, plus US Citizen naturalization ceremony
- Art on the Wabash 9/22 10-4pm
- Hidden Gems House Tours 10/20 1-4pm. Hills & Dales, New Chauncey neighborhoods.

### Cycling Feedback

Online survey, state of cycling in WL

<http://bikewalkgreaterlafayette.org/west-lafayette-public-survey/>

## School Board

School Board Policies have been published on the website

Working on the budget, will finalize in October

Approved the Safe Schools Technology

## Purdue

United Way campaign began on campus last Wednesday.  
Lots of construction around campus and Discovery Park.

## Superintendent, Rocky Killian

### ILEARN

- Statewide, over 50% of students who passed ISTEP failed ILEARN. ILEARN topics were not well aligned with state teaching standards. Districts that did well generally are those who “taught to the test”, purchasing study packages aimed at ILEARN exam material. Rocky not in favor of this study packet route, instead favoring teaching a well-rounded curriculum based upon meeting state standards.
- 40% fail rate at WLCSC. Similar rate at our comparative districts, Zionsville and Carmel.
- Hoping that the state will see the issues are with ILEARN and not punish schools / teachers

### Educational Pathways

- Expect that standardized testing will again change in 2022 and shift towards “Educational Pathways”
- IN Governor will appoint a State Superintendent of Education in Jan 2021 (previously this has been an elected position)
  - Expect to see a push towards virtual and charter schools
  - Make kids more “job ready” coming out of high school. Not a great fit for WLCSC graduates, where 95%+ go to college.
- There is a push to hold high schools accountable for the graduates’ success (or not)
  - Idea is if an alumnus is fired / fails boot camp / drops out of college, the high school will be dinged for it.

### Construction

- Adding much needed capacity to our schools.
  - Prior to WLES, the last school built in WLCSC was 1961
  - Anticipate that this construction will meet future enrollment growth
- Costs have gone up since the construction plan was started in 2014
  - Many of our projects use **a lot** of steel. Tariffs have caused a large increase in the cost of steel.
  - Lots of construction projects around town, more demand for construction crews
  - HS academic wing bids are coming in higher than anticipated, may need to scale back plans a bit. Will know more in a couple months.
  - WLSEF’s Capital Campaign is critical in raising needed funds

### Lawsuit: Prevent charter school building take over

- WLCSC is suing the state to protect the Happy Hollow building against an existing law. Currently, a private company may form a charter school and lease / buy unoccupied classrooms for \$1. Background on this lawsuit can be found:

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<https://www.jconline.com/story/news/2019/09/12/west-lafayette-schools-sue-indiana-call-1-charter-law-unconstitutional-land-grab/2273698001/>

### Safe School Technology: faster emergency response time to schools

- In June, the WLCSC security teams saw a demonstration of this system
- In an emergency situation (e.g. active shooter), precious minutes can be lost by going through the 911 system. This system decreases response time, and provides emergency responders the exact location of the alarm activation.
- Classrooms / hallways will have a button & camera system that directly calls WLPD and immediately initiates a building lock down.
- \$180K to implement, which will be paid via grants. Both teachers and the WLPD are in favor of this system. It should be installed in 6 to 8 weeks, with training held soon after.

### Town Hall Meeting 9/19 @6:30 HS auditorium

- Dr Larry DeBoer
- Dr Jennifer McCormick
- Drs Coopman & Taylor

### Professional Development Days

- On 9/23, Prof. Tom Guskey will give a 3-hour seminar on improving student success while reducing student stress
  - <https://tguskey.com> Senior Research Scholar in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville and Professor Emeritus in the College of Education at the University of Kentucky
  - Example of one his talking points: "Homework should be an upper, not a downer". Suggests making homework optional: if your term grade is a C or better you get an extra grade up if homework was turned in (i.e. B to A). A student who can master the material without homework is not punished.
- On 2/28, Todd Whitaker will come to speak to teachers. Author of the book What Great Teachers Do Differently