

## **December 2016 PTO Meeting with Dr. Lovett:**

**Small Group:** Dr.Lovett asked us to get into small groups to ask what we like about Matoska. Came back into large group and some things that were said:

- Passion of staff
- Culture
- Worldview/Citizenship
- Inclusive environment
- The IB curriculum
- Quality of financial support
- Developing the whole child
- Teachers accepting all kids' individual needs

Dr. Lovett stated that we are all working for the common good.

- **Enrollment: Presented by Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak** As a whole, we are on an upward trend, projecting 1-2% a year growth pushing 8700 in the next 7 years
- More people choosing WBL at Kindergarten level and sticking with us. More Kindergarteners coming than Seniors.

### **Facilities: Also presented by Dr. Kazmierczak**

- Site Assessment of each facility beginning soon.
- Will be considering what we need in the next 10 years, and getting baseline data work started.
- Greater growth in northern part of district-concern for room up there is great, and there has been talk to add or build on schools up there depending on the need.
- Potential for large building project in district.
- Mr. John has met with architects regarding Matoska.

### **Financials: Presented by Dr. Kazmierczak and Dr. Lovett**

- Last 9 years solid financial condition
- We are in as good of shape as you'll find compared to other districts in the metro area.
- Operating levy will be on 2017 ballot in November, whether to renew or not. Wayne and Dr.Lovett, along with the entire school board are very optimistic.
- Both men stated they see the passion that the parents and community have, and urge us to get involved and stay involved.

### **Curriculum: Presented by Don Mullin**

- 50% middle school taking enrichment courses.

- 103 college credit courses at high school
- So far, doing pretty good teaching all students.
- 66% students taking college courses by senior year.
- Great job partnering with Century college, and Pathways to success program with DuFresne Manufacturing and HealthPartners partnering to name a few.
- As far as Matoska is concerned, the board requested an in depth study of the IB curriculum for this school, and the two middle schools over the next year and a half.

### **Open Forum:**

- 2nd grade class is WAY too big with 28/class, what are we going to do?
- School is general is growing, with our smallest classes 4th and 5th grade (with 70-80 students) on their way out, and kindergarten enrollment is 100-110.
- Lunch hour is too short. Many parents saying kids are coming home saying they have no time to eat lunch. Mr. John said he will make the appropriate adjustments to ensure kids are getting enough time to eat lunch. No one should have to leave lunch hungry.
- Controlling Kindergarten enrollment (potential cap at 110, and then waiting list?)
- Parents wondering why enrollment so high at Matoska compared to other schools in area. Is it because of IB?? If so, would there be a possibility of opening an IB school on the north end to alleviate the south end? Dr. Lovett says we can solve these issues, and their would potentially be consideration on 2nd IB site. Board will look at what identity other schools in the district will take on as well.
- Bottom line is they've seen this coming, and will need more space, especially for elementary levels. Oneka growing at a faster rate than Matoska, and Lincoln growing about the same as Matoska.
- Lots of questions and concerns from parents at Matoska, which prompted Dr. Lovett to offer to come back to another PTO meeting this spring, potentially March or April.