# **Julian PTO Meeting - 12/11/24**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Approval of Recording of Meeting**

**Principal’s Report**

* Parent Focus Group on the Middle School Schedule Redesign
  + Discussion with Parents in Attendance
    - Question 1: What are the thoughts on current elective choices at Julian Middle School (noting that electives vary between the two middle schools)?
      * Variety of feedback with the most consensus around having more elective opportunity, allowing students to be able to choose two art collections (ie music and visual arts). Desire to see an increase in the academic rigor of the programs and eliminate the dead time in SOAR and/or advisory classes. Discussion was held around special education students and their lack of access to electives including Design and foreign language.
    - Question 2: What is the feeling around having cross-grade level elective classes?
      * Generally well received in concept with some concerns about social interaction/maturity differences. Feedback was given that this could increase access to different electives as you can enter a program at any grade level and also give more opportunity to differentiation/challenge for students looking for acceleration.
      * This would impact electives only – not academic core classes
    - Question 3: What is the feeling around having cross-grade level lunch?
      * Generally not well received as its one of the few times students cross teams and see friends from other groups. Also there are concerns it could create unintentional isolation with student who no few or no friends in their lunch.
    - Question 4: Regarding social time / recess – would daily PE fulfil this need?
      * Most parents feel that PE does not replace the need for daily “unstructured” social time for students to connect.
    - Question 5: Would you like to see daily class periods be a shorter amount of time?
      * Well received by parents. Most would like to see block scheduling eliminated, have shorter class periods and allow students to have daily access to core subjects.
  + Schedule / Next Steps
    - These questions were asked to get feedback – now the puzzle of assembling an new schedule and determining logistical needs comes into consideration.
    - Focus groups will be held with students and staff
    - Feedback from stakeholder groups will be taken into consideration by the team of 30+ staff working on schedule redesign
    - February a proposed new schedule will be presented to the board
    - 2025 – 2026 school year will utilize a new schedule

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Any additional items to approve?

**Committee Reports**

* Diversity
* Fundraising/Lunch Program Update
* Communications
* Julian Support/Wellness
  + Social workers have been managing requests for Angel funds

**New Business**

* Review of Maker’s Fair
  + Strong participation with 80 groups of kids. Consider a sensory time at start? Can we find more space to spread out? Need a staff liason to help reach students on the internal email system. Shorten the time to 4-6 pm
* 8th Grade Six Flags Trip (outside of St. Louis Trip)
  + Discussion happening between schools
  + More detail to come
* 8th Grade St Louis Trip
  + The deposit site has not yet opened – following up
* Future Student Events
  + Winter Dance: Discussion to be held with spirit team to get feedback. Targeting February
  + 8th Grade Dance / Event: as above – to discuss with spirit team 8th graders for idea generation / feedback.