

CEO Update

Minutes 5/9/2018

CEO Krish Mohip told those in attendance about the many improvements forged throughout the school year. Teachers have completed many sessions of professional development, the district changed its rules regarding student transportation so more students can ride the bus rather than walk to school. The district is doing most of its busing for itself and reaping savings because of it

The district is relying on data to make decisions, the CEO said. Five-week reviews determine students' needs by assessing each student's behavior, attendance and grades. The district has been asking by other districts in Ohio and across the country, to explain the use of data,

Tiffany Payiavlas, program coordinator at the Youngstown Office of the Ohio State University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion Young Scholars Program, talked about the program which marks its 30th anniversary this year.

OSU YSP students are nominated in eighth-grade and most would be considered first-generation college students. They must complete an essay and meet income guidelines to be accepted. Those who complete the program can receive scholarships to OSU.

Payiavlas thanked the parents and families and introduced the Class of scholars who are graduating this year.

Tony Deniro, deputy chief of maintenance and operations, said the project to renovate the Ward building to become the new location for Youngstown Early College is progressing on schedule. The school is expected to move into the new quarters this fall.

Christine Sawicki, chief of teaching and learning, said AIR testing would wrap up that week and results will be available by June 5. NWEA testing , which is used to gauge individual student growth, will be done later this month.

She said the district is also at the point where officials are evaluating programs. School schedules will be adjusted for final exams.

Greg Kibler, deputy chief of data, said the district is roster verification. A review indicate the quality of instruction increasing..

Amanda McGinniss, deputy chief of school improvement and programs, listed the summer programs that will be available for students this year.

Rick Shepas, deputy chief of physical development and athletics, said participation in school athletics has increased by nearly four times this year. He thanked Colleen Murphy Penk, chief of transportation, and Susan Paris, chief of food service, for their work and cooperation

Lori Kopp, chief of student services, told the audience about district's early childhood programs which served 470 students in 21 classrooms. The majority of the district's preschool classrooms are five-star certified. YCSD has also increased to 65 the number of teachers who meet highly qualified standard of the 88 in the department.

Pat Lowry, director of strategic initiatives, said Camp Fitch awarded the district with 35 scholarships to attend its summer camp this year. The district is hoping to get another organization to provide additional scholarships so that more YCSD students can go. This school year, the district started swim lessons at the YMCA, through a partnership with the Y and the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

Students at for elementary school buildings will undergo dental screenings through a partnership between the district and Mercy Health. Beginning July 1, two Vista volunteers will work with the district, one for outdoor education and one for student health and wellness.

Linda Hoey, chief of parent engagement, said the April 27 parent conference was a huge success. About 150 teachers nominated by parents and about 350 parents nominated by teachers were recognized as Star Teachers and Star Parents at the event.

Parent engagement coordinators are working to help parents complete a school-family relationship survey that's posted on the district's website.

John LaPlante, chief information officer, said his department uses data to determine program effectiveness and that the process is involved and meticulous. Not a long of districts this size do these types of assessments, he said.

YCSD will host an education-technology Aug. 7. It's free to YCSD employees and about 20 vendors will be there presenting

Colleen Murphy Penk, chief of transportation, said her department has had a great year with a new routing system allowing every child to be accounted for on every bus every day. By reducing the number of students who walk to school, she likes to think it's made a positive contribution to attendance results. Several other technology changes have made the department more efficient and effective too. The district also used two-hour delays this year for the first time ever.

CEO Mohip said he's proud of the leadership team and he introduced A.J. Ginnetti, the district's new deput chief of finance.

The district is educating the whole child and providing wrap-around services. None of that would be possible without the work of YCSD's exceptional teachers. "They are truly the ones making transformation happen," he said.