EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS
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Eden Prairie School Board
Board Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 21, 2023
Caribou near Kowalski's Eden Prairie, MN

Charter per Board Policy GP 4.8.3: This committee will ensure ongoing School Board development and oversee self-monitoring of the School Board's performance related to Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation policies.

BDC Members Present: Dennis Stubbs, Abby Libsack and CJ Strehl
Meeting Convened at 8:30 a.m.

We have been working to design education/information for the board to help with issues that have been and will likely continue impacting the students/staff in our district.

We discussed an approach to the Screen time and Mental Health Concerns of students and staff:

We are looking to provide the board with information to understand and evaluate the following:

Screen Time:

Problem: Excessive/non-intentional screen time disrupts the social and emotion development of our children and can lead to negative outcomes including: impulsive behavior, classroom disruptions, depression, loneliness, addition, and non-educational usage (i.e. games) during the school day. All these factors can negatively impact our ENDs goals.

Problem: Technology user friendliness will become even more prevalent with the rise of AI/AR/VR and the growth of on-line schools, resulting in increased screen disintermediation of social development and relationships due to un-intentional digital exposure.

Question:
Has the risk/reward trade-offs of screen time usage been fully evaluated, considering intentional design and measurement of student screen time usage and social interactions to maximize social/emotional development balanced with the need for educational usage….

Statement: The school board believes this is an important area of concern today, and will increasingly be an area of concern/opportunity over the next decade as technology becomes more imbedded in our lives. We believe the school districts that are proactive and intentional in this area will thrive.

As we explore this topic together, we should evaluate it from a position of policy. We believe it is time to assist the administration with a clear policy intention around this area:

The intention of the policy is to encourage the district:
The superintendent will ensure a balanced and intentional use of human and computer-based classroom interfaces to: optimize student educational outcomes, provide parental transparency/choice over individual digital usage, minimize non-educational use of district devices, support relationship and communication development in students and staff, and support student well-being and mental health.

A draft policy consideration:
2.0 Treatment of students: The superintendent shall not:
Allow unbalanced, unmonitored, and unintentional use of computer-based interfaces. Further, the superintendent shall not allow an environment where student screen time is not measured and available to teachers and parents.

Strategic Alignment:
- Educational Outcomes
- Student and Staff Well-being

How to Support Board/Admin consideration of this policy:
- Provide board with extensive consolidated research on topic (Email Packet of research)
- Presentation by Administration on existing policies, procedures, and measurement of risks/rewards to allow existing efforts to align with policy including what metrics they can provide to the board currently and potentially in the future
- External Speaker to provide additional info/expert advice
- Referral to Policy committee to tweak language to align with E.L language
- Vote to approve/not approve the policy based upon the above

What we need today:
- Board approval to bring in an expert speaker (budget)
- Plot a date /inclusion in work plan for policy consideration in January.
- Instruct admin to provide support
- Referral of policy definition to Policy committee to align with E.L language standards and whether END 1.6 digital citizenship should be re-aligned with new policy.

Mental Health:

Continuing to understand current supports and alignment with an external speaker to educate the board on student concerns.