

William Penn Elementary
Community Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2021

Meeting Start Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: via Zoom

Attendees:

Parents: Jenny Hamilton, Jenn Jones, Sidsie Drysdale, Gabriella Archuleta, Katie Norton, Annie Karren, Monica Bauman

Teachers/Staff: Nichole Higgins, Mindy Graham, Judy Ginsberg

State Senator: Senator Jani Iwamoto

Agenda Item #1: Approve meeting minutes from April 27, 2021

Motion to approve: Sidsie Drysdale

2nd Motion: Gabriella Archuleta

Agenda Item #2: Senator Jani Iwamoto Senator Iwamoto updated the council on some of the issues she has been working on while in session (minority issues, Health and Human Services, several police reform bills)

This year she is working on Peoples of Utah stories - for teachers to celebrate different communities (Navajo Code Talkers, Oral histories of Utah people), Education Bill: Earthquake protection and procedures in schools. Next session some of the issues she will be focused on are school enrollment windows and school psychologists.

Senator Iwamoto is meeting with a lot of students in regards to mental health and is looking into how to continue to provide that service to students. Utah has a really low student to counselor ratio. William Penn has 1 social worker 3 days a week for 600 students. The Psychologist handles 3 different schools (2 days at WP).

Sidsie Drysdale expressed concern about how the teacher FTE is determined and how that can change 6 weeks into the school year. This should be determined at least by the time school starts. One of the biggest challenges is not being able to keep teachers in their classroom and having to rearrange the classes several weeks into the school year because schools are losing a teacher or are half a teacher short. The way they determine the FTE number to keep teachers in schools needs to change. Senator Iwamoto: This is one of the issues for changing the deadline for the intention to enroll (for charter schools). Senator Iwamoto will verify if it is applicable to all public schools and not just charter schools. The FTE It is decided through legislation, but it should go through the school district representatives.

Agenda Item #3: Community Council Openings and Elections

50 percent of position are up for election every year. Elections are held in September. New community council members would start in October.

Open positions: (1)Jenny Hamilton - Community Council Chair (2) Gabrielle Archuleta (3)Katie Norton

Nichole will reach out to a family that could be representative of more of the minorities in the school to invite them to join the council.

Agenda Item #4: Additional Concerns

Katie reached out to the city regarding the school zone and safety issues around Honeycut. Teh city engineer reached out to Nichole and the city did do some studies. We have not heard back yet on those.

Jenn Jones mentioned a concern about security at school and that it felt safer there with the doors being locked and access restricted during COVID. William Penn is on the docket to have security doors installed in the fall. Teachers are looking forward to a more restricted access. Nichole's concern is the back kindergarten doors. Parents tend to try and use other doors besides the front doors. Can we keep the doors locked and access restricted until security doors are installed? A concern with this is the school seems less welcoming with locked doors.

Meeting End: 8:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 24th @ 7:30 am

Location: via Zoom

Action Items for August:

- *Follow up regarding school zone and student safety on Honeycutt
- *Follow up with school security and educating parents as to what doors they should be using.
- *Follow up on any families representing minorities that would be willing to participate in student council
- *Follow up on FTE process and intention to enroll deadlines (applicable to public schools and what can we do about it?)