

William Penn Elementary Community Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 30th, 2023

7:30-8:30

Attendees: Dr. Nichole Higgins, Sidsie Drysdale - Parent Member, Natalie El-Deiry - Parent Member, Adam Gray - Parent Member, Loni Richards - Parent Member, Sara Struhs, - Parent Member, Rachel Allen - Employee Member, Carola Booth- Employee Member, Emily Clifford - Parent, <> - Parent, <> WP Board Member, <> Board Member.

Meeting called to order at 7:40am

Approved minutes from October 26, 2023 meeting. Motion made by Sidsie Drystae to approve the October 26th meeting minutes, seconded by Natalie El-Deiry. All in favor.

Principal Report

- Dr. Higgins reviewed the school performance data available on [report card.schools.utah.gov](https://reportcard.schools.utah.gov). The site is available for anyone to look at. William Penn report can be found [here](#).
- The attendees reviewed the William Penn performance data from 2020 to 2023
 - Highlights included that the schools overall performance is in the exemplary rating for achievement and growth in all areas.
 - Significant strides have been made for English Language Learner (ELL) students. This has been a focus area for multi-language learners. There were 30 students in the last school year and that number is up to 60 now.
 - The data also shows students who are economically disadvantaged, ethnicity, ELL, students with disabilities, etc.
- Dr. Higgins shared that school leadership look at this data on meetings to determines school goals and to ensure they are serving all students.
- One challenge to be aware of is that the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESIR) funds will end in the 2023-2024 school year. These funds have been used to supplement instruction for ELL students.

Land Trust Items

- Dr. Higgins showed the report on 2023-2024 budget and actual expenses.
- Funding is allocated to the dance program and paraeducators
- There was discussion on balance that may result from hiring delays with two paraeducators.
- This could result in \$10-15K to spend, will need to determine how to spend funds if hiring delays continue by March.
- The council discussed ways to assist with promoting the position to fill by January including posting on PTA Instagram and creating yards signs outside the school.
- The position will be reposted on Monday of next week by 12/4, PTA will post on Instagram by 12/5, the end of next week, have yard signs out

Open Enrollment

- No items for open enrollment

Lottery for DLI

- Follow up items from last year decisions on DLI lottery enrollment and ensuring there is a consistent information for how the lottery works
- Dr. Higgins reviewed the graphic for prioritization for the lottery that shows the categories for students of siblings, native spanish speakers and in/out of bound students.
- The group discussed benefits and challenges of prioritization categories and the community wants/needs regarding traditional students vs DLI
- The Community Council needs to determine the number of DLI enrollments for the 2024-2025 school year to continue with 100 slots in the DLI lottery for next school year or reduce to 60
- The group discussed ensuring there is balance between traditional students and DLI
- Parents would also like more information on the long-term continuation of the program for students from elementary school to middle school to high school.
- This item will be tabled until the January meeting to see how many lottery applicants select William Penn as their school of choice.

In/Out Days

- Dr. Higgins sent an email to parents on in vs out days for inclement weather.
- The Council sets the threshold for temperature but has set guidelines for rain/snow or air quality.
- Dr. Higgins shared that teachers monitor for rain and snow to request if students should come inside if there is heavy rain or snowfall, since it can change quickly
- The Council agreed to have teachers monitor for rain/snow and if there is concern they will request to bring students inside

Holladay Hills

- Dr. Higgins shared that a month ago she was made aware of residents who were receiving notices they will need to vacate their homes in January and February 2024 from Holladay Hills.
- Several council members and parents expressed deep concern over the displacement of students.
- There are about 50 students at William Penn who live in Holladay Hills.
- The groups understanding is that the Holladay Hills owners are vacating the apartment to renovate or rebuild for market rate apartments
- Granite School District and City of Millcreek are organizing numerous groups to identify resources to assist the families with housing and other needs.
- Parents can complete an Open Enrollment Form to request their student stays in William Penn if they move out of bounds. More information for parents can be found [here](#) or they can call the front desk for more information or guidance.
- William Penn's Social Worker will visit households next week to discuss student options and identify the assistance they need.
- William Penn will do their best to transition students as they need to move in/out of the district.
- Parents and Community Council members discussed additional resources or support they can provide to students and families.

Meeting adjourned <time>