

ELPS District School Council Minutes

February 9, 2024

Noon

Held in person and via Zoom

In attendance: Billy Hastings, Chris Martin, Angela Michael, Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth, Erin Cazal, Jessica Eyde, Julie Tobin

Called to order at 12:01

December and January Minutes to be approved via email

No Administrative Update

School Board Update – Chris:

- This is his first month as board president. Chris would like to spend more time talking about the positive things happening in the district. If something cool is happening at one of our schools, like awards or an event, he would like us to write a paragraph about it and send it to the board so they can share out the good things happening at each school and to recognize the hard work that is put into organizing these events. Info can be sent to chris.martin@elps.us or tali.faris@elps.us

Facilities, Maintenance and Grounds Update – Billy:

- This is the first time Billy's been asked to share this type of info with a parent group, but welcomes sharing this information with us. He has been in this field for 33 years, and in ELPS for about 1 ½ years. In that time all facilities and maintenance staff have become in house positions rather than contracted positions, which gives those employees the option to join a union.
- Our district has 8 schools with 34 custodians total who each do the work of cleaning during the school day, including cleaning kitchens twice a day, and all the after hours cleaning work, including helping with set up and cleaning up after special activities.
- Last year the district had just 2 maintenance people who completed over 1000 work orders, as well as immediate work that doesn't get a work order.
- Landscaping is now done in house as well, rather than contracted out, and looking to get the necessary equipment to be able to do all snow plowing in house as well.
- A lot of effort has been spent over the past two years to get all equipment working in the schools that was not previously, like exhaust fans and handicap accessible doors. Were recently given funds to replace the hot water and cold water pipes at the high school which used to require running the heat all summer to keep the AC working.
- We used to contract out all floor work, like stripping and waxing, but that is now being done in house as well. Billy is working to teach staff how to resurface the hardwood floors in the gyms as well.
- Planning to work this spring on some landscaping at the middle school, hoping to powerwash the building and add some small plants. Currently looking at options other than mulch for around the buildings, as it holds moisture and can contribute to allergy issues.
- Have already fenced off a couple of the elementary school retention ponds and would like to do the rest. Looking into the parking lot stormwater drain issues at Donley. The contractors left debris in the catchbasins and did not skirt those away correctly, so those had been cleaned. If it does not improve this spring a pump may need to be put in. The retention ponds are required by the state.
- Also looking to work on elementary landscaping over the next few years and is open to native plants. Currently working with some students at the high school to start a native planting area in the courtyard there.

- There are some guidelines for community gardens at the schools. The district will do things like till, put up temporary fence, provide a way to get water and will throw away weeds that the students/families have weeded.
- Don't hesitate to share if we ever see any issue in any of the buildings, Billy and his team take pride in getting things fixed as quickly as they can.

Building Updates:

- High School – no updates
- MacDonald – no updates
- Marble – no updates
- Green – no updates
- Red Cedar – movie night today
- Glencairn – Had science night on Wednesday, which went well. Did a movie night with a big turnout that was fun and chaotic. Book fair coming in March.
- Whitehills – Had a movie night, which was also chaotic and fun, with lots of families in attendance. Next month is a science fair of student projects.
- Donley – Dalton the dog started this week, he's 5 months old and is with the art teacher. Very behaved for being so young. March includes Book Bingo, an auction, and an all school assembly with an author for reading month. Going to try a fundraiser with Launch, works similarly to a Marco's Pizza fundraiser. Currently accepting books and new small stuffies for Book Bingo.

Next Meeting 3/15, Jen Jockheck and Gus are invited.

Adjourn 12:48

Building Reps:

Donley	Julie Tobin
Glencairn	Erin Cazal
Green	Meghan Drouare
Marble	Jill Selke
Red Cedar	Linden Brown-Wren
Whitehills	Jessica Eyde
MacDonald	Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth
High School	Angela Michael