

ELPS District School Council Minutes  
November 8, 2024  
Noon  
Held in person and via Zoom

In attendance: Dori Leyko, Glenn Mitcham, Jessica Eyde, Jill Selke, Alex Lewis, Molly Szpunar, Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth

Called to order at 12:02

- Introductions

October Minutes Approval

- Motioned by Jessica, Seconded by Jill, unanimously approved

Administrative Update – Dori Leyko

- The school based health clinic is back on. ELPS is partnering with U of M Sparow on construction and staffing of the facility. The goal is to open by late July, kicking off the opening with athletic physicals. U of M Sparow is eager to partner with us on this, and there will be both physical and mental health supports at the clinic. Dori will meet with the community advisory board for the clinic again later this month.
- Just finished a 4 hour meeting reviewing educator grants this morning. Each year East Lansing Educational Foundation offers ELPS teachers and staff the opportunity to write grants for their classrooms, clubs, activities, etc. Glenn and Dori assist in reviewing the grants from a school perspective. This year ELEF is awarding over \$60,000 in educator grants.
- There were 4 open school board seats in the election, 3 were for 4 year terms, and one for a 2 year partial term. Three incumbents, Estrella Torrez, Elizabeth Guerrero Lyons and Chris Martin, retained their seats for the 4 year terms and Abbie Tykocki was elected to the 2 year term seat.
- At Monday's school board meeting Dori will give a presentation on the bond and construction updates. There are a couple phases and nothing is likely to look different until next school year.
- There was an adult vaccine clinic offered to staff a few weeks ago that included flu, COVID and shingles vaccines.
- Questions for Dori:
  - Are teacher grants just for the high school? Answer: No, they are open to the entire district and grants are approved for all school levels. Because decisions have just been made, no grant recipients have been notified yet. In a few weeks Glenn and Dori will join the ELEF in going school to school to notify recipients and their classrooms.

Academics Update – Glenn Mitcham

- Glenn's role covers a lot of areas, including curriculum. Currently looking to update the middle school and high school health curriculum. For years ELPS has used the Michigan Model, and it is delivered in different classes depending on grade level (gym class for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, science class for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, health class for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>). There hasn't been state funding to update that curriculum in about 10 years, so the district is looking at 3 choices that are more updated and will better serve our students. 1-2 of these will be piloted in the spring, and then if the school board approves adoption of one of those, staff would train in the summer and the new curriculum would go into schools next year.
- Since the pandemic we are seeing a lot of new student behaviors, which is also happening at other districts. There is more breadth and depth of need than prior to the pandemic, that is causing more

students to struggle with focusing on academics. Glenn has been working especially with the elementary principals on new ways to support classroom teachers with more skills, tools and resources for those students. This includes looking at different interventions and ways that principals can also support teachers. Some of these are new technology resources, like programs to be able to use with the students who need additional supports.

- ELPS is one of 27 districts that are included in the Multicultural Student Achievement Network (MSAN), which is a nationwide coalition of diverse school districts. Very diverse school districts like East Lansing have different challenges than less diverse districts, and this group helps support those challenges. East Lansing is hosting the annual MSAN student conference next week at the Kellogg Center. 159 students and 48 chaperones from 18 districts are registered to participate. This year's theme is Leaving Our Legacy.
- Some of the highlights of the conference include keynote speakers like Mari Copeny, a youth activist known as Little Miss Flint, and Sarah Anthony, a Michigan state Senator. There is also a Community Impact through Entrepreneurship panel with many local entrepreneurs, including Nyshell Lawrence, owner of Socialight Society bookstore who helped the district with the project to purchase more diverse classroom books, and Gary Caldwell, an ELHS graduate and owner of Gary Caldwell Productions video production company. It will be a great chance for high school students to hear from people who look like them who have started small businesses.
- MSAN Conference students also have the opportunity to go on a campus tour, including touring specific colleges and lunch at Brody Hall.
- A large piece of the conference is also each student group is challenged with coming up with a project to bring back and implement at their school. Our group who went last year worked on student led professional learning about microaggressions. They have delivered this professional development session twice this year, and it has been highly rated each time by staff, and is a great chance for them to learn directly from our students.
- Questions for Glenn:
  - Is this high school students only? Answer: Yes, only high school, with districts from the east coast to Arizona.
  - Have our students been part of the planning? Answer: Yes, our MSAN students have been directly involved in helping plan the conference, giving input on things like what to include in the swag bags, and helping determine what the pre-conference activities, videos and articles should be.
  - Are students at all grade levels struggling post-pandemic, or just certain groups? Answer: It seems to be all grades, K through 12. This doesn't seem like a bubble, but potentially a new long term impact. Even if kids don't remember the pandemic, their families went through it. We need to be planning and adjusting to new ways of doing things. We have added new supports like social workers and programs to help respond to student needs.
  - From Green – After conferences, many families discussed how helpful it would be in the future to have some evening hours for conferences. Understanding is that the timing is built into teacher contracts, but could that be discussed for the future? Answer: Elementary teachers get to choose their conference schedule teacher by teacher, it is not mandated specifically by the school, district or contract. Administration can bring more awareness to the accessibility issues with not offering evening conference options and possibly recommend an official evening time for elementary conferences.

## Individual Building Updates

- High School – No updates available
- Middle School – Activity Night at end of October was a big success.
- Marble – Big Zoo Lesson is next week.
  - Whitehills thought the Big Zoo trips were canceled districtwide as they don't do the Big Zoo week trip there anymore. Glenn: The administration team cannot require teachers to take kids on a week long field trip, so for third grade there are two options that meet the grade level science standards. One is the 5 day Big Zoo lesson (Big Zoo no longer offers the 2 day option) and the other is a field trip to the MI Capitol and MI Science Center.
- Donley – No updates available
- Green – Had International Night last night, with students learning about different countries during the school day and then an evening event for families with food and displays.
- Whitehills – STEM Night is next Thursday, will have about 18 groups coming and the Kona Cocoa truck.
- Glencairn – Math Night is November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Families continue to have a concern about the lack of fencing/screening along Saginaw. There is a lot of noise and sound pollution. The district has discussed fencing and is trying to balance being secure and being open to the community, as well as actual security versus perceived security of a fence.
- Red Cedar – No updates available

Adjourned at 12:41

### Building Reps:

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|-------------|--------------------------|
| Donley      | Lizzy King               |
| Glencairn   | Molly Szpunar            |
| Green       | Alex Lewis               |
| Marble      | Jill Selke               |
| Red Cedar   | Linden Brown-Wren        |
| Whitehills  | Jessica Eyde             |
| MacDonald   | Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth |
| High School | Angela Michael           |