

ELPS District School Council Minutes  
January 6, 2023  
Noon  
Held in person and via Zoom

In attendance: Linden Brown-Wren, Meg Drouare, Tana Hemsley, Angela Michael, Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth, Dori Leyko, Klaudia Burton

Called to order at 12:01

Introductions

December Minutes Approved at 12:02; motioned by Angela, seconded by Meg

Administrative Update – Dori Leyko

- Monday, January 9 is the first board meeting with new board members Amanda Cormier and Tali Faris-Hylen. They will be sworn in at the meeting and officers will be elected. Committee assignments will be made by the elected president.
- Next week is finals week at the high school.
- Dori watches the weather closely this time of year.
- High school Collage is this weekend, it is their annual performing and visual arts event.
- A new director of Operations is starting Monday and will oversee custodial services as well as maintenance and facility operations. Almost 40 custodial positions have been filled, many by former Jani-King employees who have been working in the district.

Director of Equity and Social Justice – Klaudia Burton

- This was a new position for ELPS, so she has helped create the position. Klaudia was a science teacher at the high school before moving into this position.
- The district has been working to be more equitable and inclusive. One of the first steps has been an internal audit of policies, practices and procedures. Have been working with Justice Leaders Collaborative for trainings and ideas on how to move forward. Have been working to engage all building staff with opportunities for professional learning related to social justice.
- Each school has established a social justice team, and they are overseen by Klaudia. These groups do a lot of work and spearhead things in their own buildings.
- Last year they audited how holidays are being celebrated and represented in classrooms, including what events, artwork and images are highlighted.
- Partnered with ELEF for a huge grant to provide diverse books to all teachers at the elementary buildings. A committee came up with 300 titles for ages 0-12 for staff to use when choosing books.
- Klaudia was also part of the teams developing the 3 new curriculums (middle school social studies and science, and elementary reading) with the goal to develop curriculum in the most equitable and diverse way. Books and lessons were changes as needed in purchased curriculum to ensure it met our districts DEI standards.

Question: Marble has a social justice team for families. We have heard there was a potential plan to expand that or develop a team at each building. Red Cedar could use a team for families. Some RC staff is concerned about having a social equity team run by parents without staff inclusion, and would rather a team come from the district than be run by parent/community council. Response: Klaudia would be happy to help support Red Cedar in setting up a team for their school. She has had conversations on how to have families

be more involved and get more voices heard district-wide, but still working on how to facilitate that. The Marble team was developed by families, not the district. She is happy to be a resource and help with guidance, but the district will not govern or create these teams, just guide.

#### Building Updates:

- High School – having a winter formal soon
- Middle School – no updates
- Green –Penguin Patch event was well received, and kids had a lot of fun. They didn't send nearly enough items so council bought \$300 worth of items at dollar store to have enough items, will need to adjust for the future. An anonymous donor gave money so each child could buy something, but it was tough to make work as intended without more people working the event. Planning for dance at the end of February, looking for a DJ. Doing a community service event throughout this month. Kids decorated placemats that will go to retirement homes, and next is a giving tree fund drive for pet supplies.
- Glencairn – no updates
- Marble – Book fair went well and did better than expected. Gearing up for reinstating events. Having volunteer issues, trying to find a lead for mindfulness event that is only a few weeks away. Finding they need more people to keep these events going.
- Red Cedar – Had book fair in December, was successful. Beforehand council met with the school equity team and were able to ensure each child got a book and a trinket. Also had scholarships available and need to figure out how to best communicate with families about those. Didn't have many volunteers. Chose to get money as scholastic bucks to use for books for the library. Looking into the possibility of switching from Scholastic to a Black owned bookstore that gives back to community.
- Whitehills – no updates
- Donley – Book fair went well, working on spring carnival and auction.

#### Next Meeting 2/3

Adjourned 12:45

#### Building Reps:

Donley	Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth
Glencairn	Natalie Bertoia
Green	Meghan Drouare
Marble	Tana Hemsley
Red Cedar	Linden Brown-Wren
Whitehills	Sara Cunningham
MacDonald	Meghan Drouare
High School	Angela Michael