

ELPS District School Council Minutes
November 4, 2022
Noon
Held in person and via Zoom

In attendance: Natalie Bertoia, Linden Brown-Wren, Sara Cunningham, Meg Drouare, Tana Hemsley, Jen Jockheck, Dori Leyko, Angela Michael, Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth

Called to order at 12:02

Welcome and Introductions at 12:03

Canines for Change

- 7 of 8 schools in the district currently have a dog through the Canines for Change program. Donley does not have a dog at this time. The dogs are owned by the district but are trained, cared by and live with a staff member for each school. If the staff member leaves, the dog would stay with the school district.
- 5 of the 7 dogs are sibling goldendoodles, the other 2 dogs are labs.
- Jen Jockheck is a counselor at the high school and has Gus. She and Gus have gone to training weekly since July. Gus is a bit older and further along in training so he is at school every day in Jen's office, and she brings him to classrooms as requested. He is very gentle with students and is trained with commands to stay by her side until she says he is dismissed. They also work on teaching the students that they have to be respectful of his training so they cannot pet him until he is given permission to go over to a student.
- So far the program has been very successful, the dogs are bringing lots of joy to students. The initial intent of the program is to reduce anxiety and provide comfort for students. It is also possible for dogs in this program to be trained to support specific student needs. A second dog may be added at the middle school at their request, in part due to the size of the student population there.
- Jen says she never gets tired of people asking her to stop so they can pet Gus, she enjoys seeing their reactions and taking the time to help bring joy to the students.

Administrative Update

- Fundraising Follow Up – Dori spoke with Klaudia Burton, the district Director of Equity and Social Justice, about the fundraising questions raised at our October meeting. She is going to work with the social justice teams to develop a guidelines document to help the schools and councils have some direction on what is appropriate.
 - Reminder, no school Friday November 11th for second day of professional development classes. Lots of elementary staff are taking classes around the new literacy curriculum. There are courses led by Lindsey Young, district Wellness Coordinator, a course by Justice Leaders Collaborative, and courses run by the ISD, including one that looks at early warning signs for secondary students around course failure behavior and attendance.

Building Updates:

- High School – No updates
- Middle School – Music concerts are underway, boys basketball has started, new clubs have begun including a cooking club that is very popular. Kids were really excited for the first Activity Night in October. There was high attendance, they sold pizzas and had games and a DJ. Changing name to Community Council rather than Parent Council. Currently working on building beautification, hoping to

get some clubs and groups to decorate. Discussed that end of year Activity Night, they may invite 5th graders, if so they may request volunteers from elementary councils.

- Green – Doing a Penguin Patch mini fundraiser in December, with knickknacks students can buy as holiday gifts for their family. Planning book fair for end of February to pair with a dance. 2nd and 3rd graders are going to Wharton for a performance. Council provided grad and go snacks for teachers during conferences and planning a lunch for staff in December.
- Red Cedar – Fall Carnival went really well. One highlight was buttonmakers that Linden loaned, wondering whether we have group resources like that we could share among schools. We could start using this group as a list of people to check with for resources, Tana offered to create a spreadsheet or form. Also, RC is looking for spiritwear company info.
- Whitehills – Catered 2 lunches and did a taco bar for teacher conferences. Had a spirit week that ended with cider and donuts on the Friday. Discovered NCG will donate free popcorn, so they are using that for their popcorn Fridays. Planning Science Night in December with the book fair, planning a January Movie Night and working on a Spring Carnival.
- Glencairn – No updates
- Donley – Doing an art fundraiser with Square One Art, provided two lunches to staff during conferences. Planning book fair just after Thanksgiving break. Did a schoolwide Pumpkin Day at the end of October to celebrate meeting PBIS goal. Council provided one pumpkin per student for them to decorate and take home, teachers did science lessons involving pumpkins and then did some pumpkin launches outdoors.
- Marble – Getting ready for Math Night, gearing up for book fair in December, a wellness themed Marble Muskrat Mayhem in the winter and also prepping for a Carnival.

October Minutes Approved at 12:51; motioned by Angela, seconded by Meg

Next Meeting 12/2

Adjourned 12:52

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