

ELPS District School Council Minutes
September 9, 2022
Noon
Held in person and via Zoom

In attendance: Sara Cunningham, Meghan Drouare, Dori Leyko, Maureen McGinnis, Angela Michael, Rhiannon Worgess-Carveth

Called to order at 12:01

Welcome

- Do we have representatives for every school?
- Reaching out to MacDonald, Red Cedar and Glencairn

Administrative Update

- Back to school start is as good as it's been for 3 years.
- Tennis has been using new courts, soccer and football are now able to use new turf field
- Currently dealing with custodial staffing issues district-wide. School admins are helping and filling in gaps where possible. The district working to bring custodial services back in house, will be posting some positions in mid-September with hope to be fully staffed by January 1st.
- The construction of the outdoor learning spaces at the elementary buildings is finishing up, with goal of finishing by end of September. The installation teams have had staffing issues, which has led to delays in completion.
- The federal free lunch program went away this year. The district was able to use district funds to reduce lunch costs by 50%. Those who qualify for reduced lunch costs receive free lunches.
- The high school and middle school are working on efforts to help students feel more connected to school and each other. The high school is providing activity passes for all students, so they each get a free ticket to all athletic events. And the middle school is asking for volunteers to help run clubs after school and during lunch. 17 new clubs are underway and they are looking for sponsors for some new student requested clubs.
- Questions for Dori:
 - Will the outdoor learning spaces have roofs? Answer: Yes, it will be sort of like a pavilion with some flexible seating, but no permanent seating at this time so as not to limit what the spaces can be used for.
 - Can you speak to the Dean Transportation Bus Issues? Answer: Rich Pugh has more knowledge and info on transportation and may be able to provide more detailed update. Dean is short staffed, so still running less buses than previous years and having to do some double runs, which is preferable to cancelling a route. Changes may be made over the month as they have more details on the actual number of riders.
 - Would it be possible to ask for parents to volunteer to assist with custodial work (ex. emptying trash)? Answer: It may be a tough ask, but will discuss with building principals. Another idea is to see if this would qualify toward NHS volunteer hours.

Discussion

- A Whitehills parent reached out with concerns regarding accessibility of elementary playgrounds to all students. Maureen has been looking into this, and trying to come up with some low cost

ideas that could happen more quickly than a barrier free playground. Discussed the possibility of the elementary councils going in together to provide things like chalk, stencils, bean bags, etc and share among the elementary buildings. It may be easier and more cost effective to make something happen if we work together.

- Discussion of what committees to invite to DSC this year, including recommendations and input from Dori.
- The restorative justice team at the middle school is trying to put together a document to share about their process. Their process does not always include information going to parents because the process is handled directly with the kids. It doesn't replace discipline, but is used in conjunction. This process is also used at the elementary and high school levels, but it is most need at the middle school and a lot of training has happened there to support restorative justice process.
- Marble is using their social media to promote mental wellness, and has gotten good feedback. They are also boosting other elementary council posts, in trying to boost each other and build community.
- Discussion about Zoom event prior to school board elections. Angela will look into it. Tentative date October 20th. We should ask each council for questions to ask the candidates. Sarah will contact MacDonald Middle School, Rhiannon will contact Glencairn and Red Cedar for questions.

Tentative Schedule for future meetings, Angela will reach out to individuals to schedule:

- October – fundraising, school collaboration, idea sharing
- November – K9s for Change program
- December – Mental Health
- January – Equity & Social Justice
- February – Academic & Tech/Professional Development
- March – Finance
- April – Facilities
- May – planning for next year, elections, training

Adjourn 12:55

Building Reps (as of late September):

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