

Ensign Elementary School Community Council Meeting

12/17/19; 7:30am

Attendance

Staff: Dani Phifer, Erik Jacobson, Polly Parkinson, Jenny Panameno

District: Katherine Kennedy

Families: Brittany Dimick, Sarah Colonna, Brianne Emery, Ashley Anderson, Melissa Riley, Diane Boogert, Chantelle Rohlfing

Absent: Amy Fehlberg, Carl Whittaker, Linda Scholl

SIC (JP): Process was reviewed for students in the hallway, including accountability tickets.

PTA Report (AF)

- E-mail update from Amy: fundraising letter was mailed home along with flier in student folders about PTA contributions, feedback and discussion that the tone of the letter was appreciated and that futures lists of PTA contributions should mention it's from the PTA.
- Save the Date: [STEAM Fair \(Jan 15th\)](#), Talent Show (Jan 28th), Write Your Heart Out (February 12th), Gallery Stroll (February 28th).
- SignUp to adjudicate [Science Fair here](#) and for [Gallery Stroll here](#).

Principal's Report (EJ)

- No updates from previous month, implementation of Kagan strategies continuing to go well.

School Board Report (KK)

- The Board is in the middle of two large topics: the vote on contract renewal for the Superintendent/Business Administrator and consideration of Late Start. **If there is feedback these issues, e-mail katherine.kennedy@slcschools.org and for employees who wish to remain anonymous, feedback can also be shared verbally.**
- Discussion of the contracts (July 2020-July 2022) and review of the controversy associated with the open or closed evaluation process; some Ensign parents attended meetings to share concerns. The board aims to create a clear process for evaluations of these employees. Those interested can listen to the September meeting, among others, where this was discussed; [find meeting audio here](#).
- Late Start study showed high rates of support (82%) from families and staff; the full report from [Y2 Analytics can be found here](#). This would involve shifts to K-6 schedules for busing, some of the plans show Ensign shifting by as few as 10 minutes. While implementation timeline is debated, Katherine believes the mental health benefits outweigh logistic concerns given the evidence and because SEL is a board goal. There is some dip in support based on income and race; the emphasis can be on mitigating those concerns so all students may reap benefits of late start.

Review of 11/19 Minutes

Motion to approve November minutes (SC), seconded (PP), unanimously approved, 7:55am

Safety Kit update (BE): Recommended changes were mutually agreeable, Kelly Baron is taking the lead to coordinate supply donations.

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TSSA and LAND Trust Funds (BE):

- Current year's LAND Trust is funding Miriam, the reading interventionist. There has been past discussion about the benefits of funding this position and what other areas families or faculty have an interest in supporting.
- Erik reviewed that not only are the metrics great for reading, but that it is foundational to all other subjects. Jenny and Polly reinforce this from a faculty perspective where it also impacts SEL. Miriam began the year with 48 students in intervention with 25% already graduating from the program; another large percentage moved from broad to targeted interventions and are some students continuing to receive full support.
- For 2020 this priority intersects with other issues; as Ensign has grown enrollment and Bryant retains more neighborhood families, it's a challenge to retain intervention positions and keep class sizes reasonable. Moving faculty into varied blended structures may address this.
- Review of district policies that are preventing significant FTE increases despite increased student numbers at Ensign. Ashley expressed frustration that without a closure plan, many precinct schools are in a perpetually unsustainable position. Discussion of the [demographic report which shows Ensign's enrollment is predicted to stay stable but significant decline is expected overall \(equivalent to 4-6 schools\)](#).
- Melissa inquires other than state funding how could we subsidize more faculty. Property tax levies can increase but equalization would mean a portion of the funding would go to other districts.
- Brittany asks about whether October FTE counts result in increased funding or additional teachers, reporting that in Granite District, faculty shift after these counts.
- Brianne circled back to what we have discussed (communication, paraprofessional pay, science, and traffic/trail).

Legislative update (AA):

- Our tax reform letter was co-signed by West and Washington SCCs and was sent to leadership of Public Education Appropriations and our precinct's representatives prior to the tax reform public meetings and special session.
- Tax reform did pass special session with property tax and earmark language removed but did reduce the income tax rate, remove the DABC funds from meals, and may result in decreased funding despite higher education being moved to the General Fund.
- There are 50 bill files open for education policies; many don't impact us much (i.e. vaping) but others (Late Start resolution and School Board Vacancy Amendments) could.
- Funding policies being written after tax reform will be the biggest issue to follow in the 2020 General Session. Senator Millner (Ogden) may resume her suggestions for an alternative funding mechanism for education that is more stable than income tax.

Motion to adjourn (AA), seconded (BE), unanimously approved 8:33am