

Tacoma Public Schools

Head Start Policy Council



Policy Council Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2022

Due to Covid-19, all Head Start Policy Council meetings for the 21-22 school year will be virtual.

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Roll Call - The following sites were represented at the meeting:

16 sites with elected members, 9 sites in attendance – 56% of the sites represented.

- Downing (Rep.)
- Edison (Rep.)
- Franklin (Alt.)
- Geiger (Rep. & Alt.)
- Jefferson (Rep.)
- Madison (Rep.)
- Manitou (Rep.)
- McCarver (Rep.)
- Willard (Vice Chair)
- PC Chair

January Meeting Minutes

The minutes from last month's meeting were approved.

Early Head Start

Puget Sound ESD Early Head Start Home-Based Manager, Allison Beckvold, presented an overview of the services that Early Head Start offers for families. Early Head Start is a home-based program for pregnant women and families with children from birth to three years old in Pierce County. The program offers weekly home visits, parent-child play groups, health, nutrition & safety, and family support. Early Head Start contact information was emailed out to PC members and advocates.

Director's Report

Enrollment is steady and the program is above average for enrollment when looking at nation-wide enrollment. USDA numbers are not available. The program is working with Nutrition Services. The program is currently serving 22 children with IEPs.

The Geiger position has been filled. There is no official start date yet. The McCarver position was offered but declined. Madison and Manitou have vacancies as well. There will be interviews for the Madison position later this week. Please reach out to Karen if you would like to be part of the interview process.

Covid updates: The guidance changed from a 14-day to a 10-day quarantine due to close contact for the classroom. At-home testing is now accepted as a test to return. Tests do not need to be lab verified anymore.

The program is currently undergoing a state audit. Details on the outcome of the audit should be available at the next meeting.

Budget Report

Last year's fiscal year is officially closed. There was \$429,057.21 that was unspent. Most of the remaining funds were a result of staffing issues.

A credit card report showing all purchases made January 1-31 was included in the handout packet. There were no questions regarding purchases.

Component Reports

Health: The District updated their Covid-19 parent page which should answer a lot of questions parents have regarding test-to-return and return dates. The site now includes specific language regarding preschool classrooms. This site also has Covid-19 updates. The District now offers a Covid-19 nurse hotline for parents to call, as well as, where and what type of tests are available throughout the District.

Education: Assessment checkpoints are approaching. Assessment data will be available for the March conferences. As a follow-up

to last month's Conscious Discipline training, there was further discussion of the Conscious Discipline breathing techniques. This included a video demonstration of the techniques by a Head Start Mentor.

Family: Component lead was not available for today's meeting.

Application for Continuation Grant

The program asked the Council for permission to submit a Continuation Grant. This application is for year number four of the five-year grant. The total amount of the grant is \$6,567,782 (operating and training budget together). This application is for the grant year September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

The PC Chair asked members to vote on approving the application. Eight sites voted yes, one site abstained. The application was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.