

Community Council Minutes **Thursday, February 9, 2023**

Committee Attendees: TJ Naylor - Principal, Julianne Zollinger - Chair, Emily Jensen, Rachel Helgesen, Robin Brown, Matt Trump

Committee Members Absent: Brooke Haag, Sean Neal

Additional Attendees: Julie Hoth - PTA liaison, Ruthanne Keller – DSD Elementary Director, Cody Case – Family Service Worker, Carole Brown – Instructional Coach

Review and Approve December Minutes

- The council reviewed to approve January's minutes
 - Rachel motioned to approve, Emily seconded, unanimously approved.

Safety/Digital Citizenship Plan

- Julianne – Spoke with advisors concerning Hope Squad and Student Council Help
 - Both groups are happy to participate
 - Hope Squad will do the second item and Student Council will do the third on the draft script
 - Community Council will do the first item, but we're going to move our part to the third position to start with the kids so we don't lose interest at the start
 - Robin – Presentation of Flyer and feedback
 - Will darken the text and do a border
 - Julie Hoth – PTA Participation in the Safety/Digital Citizenship Plan
 - The PTA will provide \$200 to cover the cost of incentives to be determined
 - Noted the policy discussion had strong opinions shared during the PTA board meeting, we plan to emphasize that this is district policy, not a Stewart policy
 - Date for launch of the plan
 - Week of April 24th, put it out on Monday and the STEAM night is 4/27

Review Data from Middle of the Year Testing – Principal Naylor

Cody Case – Family Services and Attendance Discussion

- Discussion of growth numbers from last year and comparison to goals from last year
 - We use this data to create new school improvement goals
- Cody Case – Stewart's Family Service Worker – worked for the district for 8 years, 3 ½ years in the current role and worked at JA Taylor previously
 - What is a Family Advocate?
 - Helping families feel balance between school and home
 - Every family is unique, her days are different
 - Meets family where they are currently
 - Assists in the removal of barriers to education which exist outside the school environment, in the family or community
 - Anything that negative impact the learning process
 - Examples of Barriers to Education
 - Homelessness living unsheltered in cars, doubling up with families or friends, living in unsuitable accommodations
 - Food insecurity
 - Inability to pay for heat water, etc...
 - Lack of clothing or weather appropriate clothing

- Lack of bed or bedspace
 - Individual or family mental health reasons
 - Individual or family member with disabilities
 - Unemployment, underemployment, insufficient income
 - Lack of parenting skills
- To help families identify physical and emotional self-care and stress-coping mechanics, and advocate for their needs
- Family advocates are apart of the school team
 - Working with the school team, principal, intern, school counselor, and psych to ID students in these situations
 - Teachers refer students to the team as they become aware of family needs
 - Principal or teacher should be the first to reach out to the family since they have a relationship already established
 - These people inform the family there is a family advocate who can assist and will reach out to them
 - Advocates then reach out to introduce and assist
- Attendance issues are very often tied to these issues
 - Why attendance is important
 - Attendance is linked to learning objectives and success
 - Showing up in life is becoming less and less, even within families
 - When a students misses 10% or more (18 days) the student is often headed towards missing learning objectives and/or dropping out of high school
 - Children just can't keep up if they are missing a couple of days a month
 - Excused absences also add up and cause for chronic absences
 - Children miss out on the opportunity to build a habit of good attendance
 - Low-income children feel these effects more fully
 - We can solve this issue
 - Engage families
 - Fix transportation
 - Reliable car - carpools
 - Missing the bus - bus passes
 - Address Health Needs
 - Track the right data
 - Schools sometimes miss out on warning signs by tracking the wrong data
 - Stewart Elementary Data on absences (10% of days for the year)
 - 2020 - 24 kids
 - 2021 - 64
 - 2022 - 146
 - 2023 - through 1/31 = 118, not sure how the rest of the year will go
 - 23.39% of Chronic absentee which his 255 students have been chronically absent
 - Sitting at 18.6% currently
 - In the last 3 1/2 years -We've had 24k absences with no reason, 1k of these were Covid. 9K were early checkout, parents cleared 6k of the absences
 - Regardless of the reason, if the kids aren't here, learning isn't happening
 - Even if excused
 - Ideas:
 - Collecting data and identifying individuals of concern
 - Cody and office staff can't do it alone
 - Developing a universal focus on attendance
 - Enhancing family involvement
 - Establishing a positive climate

- Creating an environment
 - Reducing exclusionary discipline
- Discussion on what we and the community can do at Stewart Elementary to encourage attendance

Data Review for Math and Language Arts

- Reading Composite Score from 2022-2023
 - Went from 80% to 81% proficient YoY, these are high scores, but Principal Naylor wants to get to 96%
 - Grades K, 5, and 6 were more proficient - the thought is less affected by COVID
- First Grade Pod Comparison
 - 1st Grade Acadience Composite
 - Year over year went from 64% to 71%
 - This is a huge improvement in year over year, big win for the pod
- Pathways to Progress Data
 - Schoolwide data in Language arts, mid-year
 - Our school goal is to have 68% at typical or above in the area of pathways to progress
 - SY 2022 - 63%
 - SY 2023 - 69%
 - We met the goal!!!
 - Schoolwide Pathways to Progress 2023 - Math
 - Increase the number of students in grades 4-6 achieving proficiency on the end-of-year Summative RISE test from 44% to 48% (for grades 4-6 as 3rd grade is assessed through Acadience
 - Action Plan Item 5
 - Forefront will be used to drill-down and monitor progress for grades 4-6
 - Overall Pathways of Progress 2022-2023
 - Went from 53.5% 2022 to 58% 2023
 - Math Composite Scores from 2022-2023
 - Year over year, composite scores of students achieving at typical or above has gone from 49% to 56% (k-3)

Housekeeping

- Next Community Council meeting will be 3/9/2023 from 3:30-4:30 in the Stewart Conference Room
 - The main agenda item to discuss the proposed LAND trust and TSSP goals/budget for the coming year
- Julianne motioned to close, Rachel seconded, unanimously approved