

Site Council Meeting May 1, 2024

Background: There are currently 10+ music teacher and 10+ Phy ED teacher open positions in the district. After the retirement of Ms. Tolleffson, our former Phy ED teacher, it took more than a year to fill that position. Due to district budget cuts, Waite Park was allotted a .6 full-time equivalent (FTE) Phy ED teacher and a .6 full-time equivalent Music teacher for the 2024-25 school year. Currently Waite Park is allotted a 1.0 FTE Phy ED teacher and a .6 FTE Music and a .3 FTE Band teacher. Ms. Stotz teaches both band and music currently.

Meeting Updates: Ms. Stotz, our current music and band teacher, has accepted a position in Columbia Heights for next school year. She needed a full time position and Waite Park was only budgeted a .6 FTE for next year. To ensure we start the year with as many specialists as possible Principal McGinness will be moving the Phy ED teacher position from a .6 FTE next year to a 1.0 FTE. That would keep our current Phy ED teacher Mr Bonkoski. Doing so would reduce the music teacher role to a .2 FTE. This would result in music being offered one day a week. Not all classrooms would get music every week, but the schedule would be maximized to rotate classrooms in equitably. Principal McGinness is reaching out to other principals who have .6-.8 music positions open and asking if any of their candidates would also like a .2 at Waite Park. Additionally, Principal McGinness and Mr. Bonkoski are exploring options to have an artist in residence for a few weeks during the year. They are also looking into bringing in more music and dance oriented groups for in-school performances. They will be researching and applying for grants to fund these experiences. Principal McGinness noted that things may still change if budgets get reopened by the district due to the teacher contract being settled or actions by the school board.

Next PTA Meeting: Thursday May 9th from 6:30pm - 7:30pm in the Waite Park Rec Center. Principal McGinness will be discussing these budget changes and offering any additional updates. Please join us!