

Explorer School Council Meeting

Date: November 12, 2024

Time: 8:00-8:45 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Jenni Jeras, Principal

Committee Members Present:

- **Administrator Representative** – Jenni Jeras, Principal
- **Teaching Staff Representative** – Zachary Bennett, 7th grade teacher
- **Teaching Staff Representative** – Kara Rosales, 8th grade teacher
- **Support Staff Representative** – Lauren Tarr, Administrative Assistant
- **Parent Representative** – Cheryl Chariton-Kirschenbaum, 7th grade parent
- **Parent Representative** – Sabrina Frieberg, 8th grade parent
- **Community Representative** - Sharon Kuehl

Purpose: To fulfill the legal requirement of A.R.S. 15-351 and provide an opportunity for local school improvement through teaming with the principal to address meaningful issues.

Outcomes: The Letter Grades for Arizona Schools was discussed as well as the new protocols for our early release program.

Agenda/Minutes

I. Explorer Middle School Letter Grade

- A. Explorer received an “A” grade from the state. The criteria made for a very close margin. Attendance is a very big aspect of the grade, which most parents don’t seem to realize is a component of the standards. They are not just based on test scores. There are other things that make up the whole picture of a school’s collective grade.
- B. How can we educate the community about this, and stress the importance of attendance at school, not just during testing days.

II. Early Release Protocol for 2025-26 School Year

- A. Ms. Jeras introduced the new protocol and standards students will have to meet in order to be approved for early release for the 2025-26 school year. The students will have to meet certain criteria, such as:
 1. Be in good standing within the school
 2. Maintain a certain grade point average
 3. Maintain a certain level of attendance
 4. Provide a published activity schedule showing the start time for the activity

III. Lobby Improvements

- A. PTO has made some improvements to our front lobby. We discussed how they will be doing more in the future.

IV. Field Trips

- A. Castles & Coasters and Washington DC are the next 2 big field trips that are coming up in the spring. We discussed the impact these have here on the school as a whole and how they can be more efficient in the future.

V. Future Enrollment

- A. We are still working on ways to increase enrollment. All suggestions are encouraged to help boost enrollment in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 08:45 a.m.

Next meeting will be held on 12/17/24.