

Tacoma Public Schools

Head Start Policy Council



Policy Council Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2024

Meeting called to order at 10:08 a.m.

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

19 sites with elected members, 10 sites in attendance (52%)

- Birney (Alt.)
- Blix (Alt.)
- Edison (M.A.L.)
- Geiger (Alt.)
- Manitou (Rep.)
- Roosevelt (Rep.)
- Stanley (Rep.)
- Travis (Rep., WSA Rep.)
- Whitman (Alt.)
- Willard (Rep., Vice Chair)
- PC Chair

Last Month's Minutes

Rep. Castro-Johnson from Roosevelt made a motion to approve February's minutes. The motion was seconded by Rep. Sam from Travis. The motion was approved.

Guest Speaker – Sheree Cook, Tacoma Urban League

The Tacoma Urban League focuses on foundations of education, economic improvement, housing, and health. It is a national organization with the goal of empowering the black community. The Tacoma Urban League offers various workshops and community events. They also have partnered with TPS in the area of special education IEPs and offers one-on-one support for TPS families. They also offer a math program (kit) that incorporates social-emotional learning. There is also a male involvement program at four TPS schools (mentorship program). Head Start parents are welcome to contact her for more information. See Karen for contact info.

Director's Report

Staffing: Assistant A vacancy in Madison 7 has been hired. Assistant B is not getting filled until next school year. Mentors and floaters will continue to support in that classroom.

Enrollment: Enrollment opens April 8. Encourage those with eligible children to apply. Any family receiving SNAP or Working Connections (child care assistance) is automatically eligible for Head Start.

Madison & Willard: Madison 7 classroom will be going to Mann and Madison 4 is going to Reed. The Willard classroom is going to Skyline. The ECEAP classroom at Willard is moving to Lyon.

Relocation: A new office location for Head Start leadership team is still undetermined (leadership team members currently housed at the soon-to-be closed sites of Willard and Madison).

Training Plan: Included in the packet is the proposed training plan, which will be submitted with the grant application. This plan supports training for leadership and staff. The funds can only be spent on training staff.

Self-Assessment: April's Policy Council meeting will also be the program's annual self-assessment. It is an opportunity to look at the program's strengths and weaknesses.

Federal Funding: The Head Start budget was passed through Congress. Head Start received a 2.7 billion dollar increase and a 2.3 COLA. This is still considered flat funding in Washington state because we have to give a 3.9 increase every year. Thankfully, there were no cuts. Thank you to everyone who advocated for the program.

Budget Report:

A report showing non-discretionary (salaries and benefits), discretionary (supplies and services), and the training budget was shared with members along with the credit card report.

Continued

Action Item: School Readiness Goals

Rep. Pierce from Birney made a motion to approve the School Readiness Goals. Rep. Malarcher from Willard seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Component Reports

Health– Families are encouraged to follow-up on hearing and vision referrals. These referrals help identify health issues and are important to your child's health. Health specialist is supporting families with health care plans and/or medication at school for those families transitioning to kindergarten. Please be sure to make your classroom advocate aware of any changes to your child's health care plan or medication needs.

Family-Community – Advocates and the enrollment team are gearing up for the 24-25 preschool enrollment. Applications can be submitted starting April 8. The aim is to have classrooms mostly full before summer break begins.

Education – Thank you for participating in conferences. CLASS observations will begin in early May. The observations that occurred last October put us at the national average in terms of scores. The program expects to see growth in the spring observations.

In-kind Challenge

The In-kind trophy for February went to Edison Head Start. This month's award was based on "Most Improved". Congratulations Edison!

Site Share-Out

Parents were concerned about the Geiger pick-up routine. Those parents addressed their concerns with the building administrator and changes were made and the pick-up procedure has improved.

The Willard drop-off, pick-up situation is not ideal. Parents have to stand outside, waiting in a line to get through the door. Scanning would be a more efficient way to get the kids checked in.

Some parents would like to see more celebrations in the classroom (birthdays, valentines, day, etc.). The program's Celebration Policy is not up for review this year.

Meeting adjourned

Rep. Malarcher from Willard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rep. Maya from Manitou. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.