

Tacoma Public Schools

Head Start Policy Council



Policy Council Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2025 (Star Center)

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

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

19 sites with elected members, 11 sites in attendance (57.8%) – Chair only votes in a tie

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Birney (Rep.) | • Jefferson (Rep.) | • Manitou (Rep.) |
| • Blix (Rep.) | • Larchmont (Alt.) | • Travis (WSA Rep.) |
| • Edison (M.A.L) | • Lister (Rep.) | • Whitman (Rep.) |
| • Franklin (Rep.) | • Lowell (Rep.) | • PC Chair |

Minutes from February Meeting

A motion was made by the Franklin Rep. to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion was 2nd by Larchmont Rep. Motion approved.

Director's Report

Staffing: The program is fully staffed.

Board Presentation: Thank you to Kat for representing Head Start at the February 27 Board meeting.

Head Start Funding: The program anticipates flat funding for the next school year. Flat funding is a decrease because each year salaries and benefits go up and the program must provide the State's cost-of-living allowance (COLA) without a Federal COLA to offset it.

Federal Program Updates: The Continuing Resolution (CR) that will fund the government through September 30th has been passed. The current CR does not include any increases in Head Start funding, which is why the assumption is being made that Head Start will have flat funding for 25-26. The program has also received notice from the Office of Head Start making grantees aware that OHS will not approve the use of federal funding for any training or technical assistance or other program expenditure that promotes or takes part in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. This includes expenditures for services provided by contractors or vendors. This guidance is consistent with the nondiscrimination provisions in Sec. 654 of the Head Start Act. This information was shared to grantees through a letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families on March 14, 2025.

Budget Report:

Expenses and balances from the operational budget, which includes salaries, benefits, and discretionary (supplies & services) was shared with the Council. The training budget expenses, and current balance was also shared. A credit card report showing charges for January was presented. The program is on mark with salaries and ben

Component Reports

No component reports were presented due to program self-assessment data.

Self-Assessment Data

Policy Council members reviewed data on student absences, student tardies, and the program's CLASS scores. When reviewing the attendance/tardy data it was noted that in 23-24 (last year) the program had a 20-minute window for being late. This year (24-25) that window has been reduced to 10 minutes to align with K-12. Interesting note regarding tardies was that schools with a later start time had fewer tardies. Some parents mentioned that obstacles outside of their control had an impact on tardies, such as parking lots, locked gates, waiting in line to sign in, and morning drop-off being mixed in with regular school drop off.

Continued on other side

For the CLASS data, parents were asked to reflect on their child's social-emotional development (ability to interact with teachers and peers), the organization of the classroom (layout, materials), and give feedback on the teaching methods in the classroom (are they effective and are children engaged).

InKind

The winner of the most hours was Edison. Most improved award goes to Mann 45.

Share-Out

No share-out due to time.

Meeting adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.