Tacoma Public Schools
Head Start Policy Council

Policy Council Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2026 (Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call - The following sites were represented at the meeting:
20 sites with elected members, 8 sites in attendance (40%)

- Blix (Rep.)
- Edison (Rep.)
- Fern Hill (Rep. Vice Chair)
- Jefferson (Rep.)
- Lowell (Rep.)
- Mann (Rep.)
- Reed (Rep.)
- Travis (Alt.)
- PC Chair

NHSA Winter Conference

Three of our Executive Board members and the Early Learning Director traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the National Head Start Association Winter Conference (January 25-30). Our TPS Head Start group attended a variety of informative and interactive sessions on Head Start priorities, and best practices. The conference focused on current issues affecting Head Start and aspirations for the future. They had the opportunity to learn from other Policy Council groups around the US and territories and even joined the National Head Start Parent Policy Council. Our members brought their stories and priorities to policymakers on Capitol Hill. Their personal stories had a real impact. Their voices were heard and lawmakers got to see firsthand how powerful a program Head Start can be.

Habitat for Humanity – Guest Speaker: Monique Dorsey

Policy Council had the privilege of having Monique Dorsey, from Habitat for Humanity, speak to the Council on starting the path to home ownership. Income qualified Pierce County residents can own a home with monthly payments as low as $1,600 a month through Tacoma/Pierce County's Habitat for Humanity's Homebuyer Program. This is open to first-time homebuyers with minimum household income of $60,000 (based on household size), not to exceed 80% AMI. Buyers must have lived and/or worked in Pierce County for at least one year, have a credit score of 620+ and be willing to invest 100+ hours sweat equity. For more information visit, owninpierce.com or tpc-habitat.org. Call for a brief assessment of eligibility and speak to a housing counselor to get your application started (253-627-5626 ext.108)

Director's Report

Staffing: FRIA position at Edison has been posted, and interviews were completed for the FRIA position at Mann. The Manitou assistant position has been filled. If any parents would like to be on an interview panel, please contact Karen Thompson.

School Levies: Tacoma overwhelmingly passed both levies. Although Head Start is federally funded, the program benefits from the operational support and technology improvements that the district provides.

FA1 Review Results: The program was found to be compliant in all areas. Head Start wants to extend a thank you to the Executive Board and PC members for helping make this a successful FA1 review.

Advocacy Day: Advocacy Day was on February 12 and was held in Olympia WA. We did not have any Head Start parents attend but TPS did have ECEAP staff and parents attend. The Early Learning Director attended the rally. There were parents and staff from all over the state advocating for more funding for early learning programs.

FY26 Appropriations Package: The FY26 appropriations package has passed both the House and the Senate. It includes an 85 million increase for Head Start for FY26.

Program Self-Assessment: The leadership team is working on program self-assessment data which Policy Council members will be able to review at the March meeting.

Budget Report:
Expenses and balances from the operational budget, which include salaries, benefits, and discretionary (supplies & services) were shared with the Council. Training budget expenses and the balance were also shared. A credit card report showing charges for January 2026 was reviewed.

Action Items

There were no action items for this meeting. Members were given copies of the following policies and procedures to review for discussion and approval at the March meeting:

- Selection Process
- Recruitment
- Enrollment
- Determining, Verifying, and Documenting Eligibility

Component Reports

Health – Families are encouraged to send in copies of physical and dental exams, and to make appointments as soon as possible if their child needs a Well Child visit or a dental exam.

Family & Community – FRIAs will be working with families during conference time to go over goals and make updates and/or changes as needed.

Education – Assessment data will be shared with families during conferences.

In-kind

A tally sheet for In-kind scores from January was shared. Stanley was the winner for the highest amount and Fern Hill was the most improved.

Share Out

- The PC Chair stated he would like to see dads get more involved in the program and in larger school functions. It was suggested that a group of Head Start dads get together to make a positive impact not just for their Head Start children but for the school community as well.

January Minutes
Motion made to approve January meeting minutes. Motion seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.