

Wheeler School Council

Minutes 2023-2024

Meeting Date Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Meeting Location: Wheeler Library

Members present	Jody Lake, Dr. Rodriguez, Shineeka Wilson, Joseph Morgan, Betsy Skattie, Shauna Van Riper
Members absent	
Non-members	Jillian Freeland, Julie Manalastas, Gabriela Young, Matt Warnstedt, Jennifer Warnstedt, Ashley Rogers, Kelly O'Brien, Eydie Esquivel, Elizabeth Houston-Judd, Ashley Timmons, Cherie John, Lauren Merkle, Marth McGowan, Tamara James, Brianna Bryant, Kristin Kahler, Rachel Sampson
Constituency group represented	PTA Alisha Ambrosino

- I.** Called to order at 4:01 P.M. by Jody Lake
- II.** Approval of Minutes for February 28, 2024

DISCUSSION NOTES	Approval of Minutes
CONCLUSIONS	
ACTION ITEMS	
Approved by Joseph Morgan, Seconded by Shauna VanRiper	

III. Call to the audience.

DISCUSSION NOTES	Joseph Morgan: How much money is left? Does it roll over to next year?
CONCLUSIONS	We have roughly \$30,000 and yes it will roll over. Joseph Morgan: I would like to see Cuisinart rods put into every primary (1 st and 2 nd) classroom. I have found that using them with my son, they are helping things be less "muddy" 1 set per every 2 kids is what I am requesting. We have a closet full of manipulatives and could also get some from the math resource center. Eydie will investigate it. The PK set it very similar and useful.
ACTION ITEMS	

IV. Reports

DISCUSSION NOTES	Principal's Report
CONCLUSIONS	Got an approval to purchase tables/desks and chairs for every classroom in the school for next year. Tables can be put into groups or left out as singles. Different sizes for different grade levels. Book vending machine has been ordered and approved. Students will be able to earn tokens and be ready to be used next year. The few things that are left to do around here and to get the Marquee and replace the windows. Hopefully the windows will be covered by the bond.

	Testing is going well; we had a rock the test assembly. The Pre-k -2 nd grades all cheered the 3 rd – 5 th graders on.
ACTION ITEMS:	

V. Action Items

ITEM TITLE	Facilitator vote
DISCUSSION NOTES	Jody Lake is asking to be facilitator again for next year.
RESOLUTION	
In favor: 5 Opposed: 0	

VI. Discussion/information items

ITEM TITLE	Tax Credit Report
DISCUSSION NOTES	Undesignated funds Amount: \$40,615.59
RESOLUTION	

ITEM TITLE	Dress Code
DISCUSSION NOTES	<p>Parent: How many students are having this issue with their clothing, and we are only talking about girls, this is not a boy issue? RR: We don't have a lot but when the weather gets nicer we would have about 3 a day. Parent (Mauve) : what was the gender of the students who's kids were worried that their kids would be witnessing the clothing that is inappropriate? Why was only girl clothing is considering the problem in the email sent out to parents? Why are we only focusing on the girls and what message we are sending when we are having issue with the clothing that is showing tummies or the bodies of young ladies. The message that we are sending is that we are sexualizing the bodies of the girls. When you talk about 4in inseams, who would be measuring would be an issue. Parent b: Then the adult would be touching a child and that would not be ok. RR We will not be pulling out rulers and measuring. Ashley: I know that the TUSD policy is to find out the interest of the parents, in the March newsletter it didn't have the correct information. The dress code is not only saying that undergarments can't be seen. There is more to it, it also says..... RR: I emphasized that part because it was what was brought to my attention. I tried to highlight the biggest change. Ashley: Both require "neat and clean and good repair" this cannot always take place because some students don't have that option. RR: I did speak to other principals who have uniforms and asked how they help these families; they have closets or ways to help. The wording that you see is coming from Vail, they are not set in stone, this is a discussion, We have provided a lot of clothing, we are a Title 1 school and we do support the families. Ashley: I just have an issue with dress code being a barrier to kids getting an education. Parent b: Why would a uniform be set into place when we have the clothing to help and provide for these kids. What would be the point of even having a uniform? RR: We don't know yet because this dress code really hasn't hit us yet. Ashely: Does this feel immature if we don't feel the new dress code until it get's warmer. RR: We will see the same amount, maybe less, we don't know. If you want to wait, we can wait. Jody: Teachers want to be able to have a voice and be able to have conversations with parents about student dress code. Alisha: Can we just go back to having the old TUSD dress code?</p>

Kelly: We all have our opinions and have feeling of what kids wear. With TUSD not giving guidelines.
 Parent c: I would not like my 1st grade son to see things that are distracting.
 Alisha: my kids both have trauma, and I am going to try to protect them by saying I don't want them to see down a shirt or a boy's butt hanging out of his pants.
 RR: We need to have a healthy discussion; we all want the same things and the best for our kids. We can want the same things and want what's best for our kids.
 Gabriella: Seeing down the shirt,
 Judd: Sometimes when they're little, she was wearing a bigger shirt and when she raised her hand, and you could see her nipples. We had a belly shirt and when she went on the monkey bars it would go up. When boys sit down their boxers or butts fall out.
 Judd reached out and was able to get the family some clothes.
 We need the coverage as teachers to have the conversation with families about what they are wearing.
 RR: we had a second grader that came to school without underwear on
 Morgan: What Alisha said about the old dress code. Are there any parents who are saying yay we are so glad that we now have this new dress code. Couldn't we go back to the old one and wouldn't that be the simplest thing to do?
 RR: It's a good idea
 Ashley: Could you get me the old dress code?
 Gabriella: The old dress code, what is in it My daughter was dress coded for having spaghetti straps and put her in a sweatshirt. Teachers are human, when are we going to be nitpicking, some teachers may say something and other won't.
 Shauna: I was that kid who was picked on because I got hand me downs because and I was tall and got dress coded. Her daughter got dress coded and had to change into something too small.
 Kelly: to paraphrase my thinking on that. Shirts must hit the waistband of the hips, Looking into specifics in verbiage other than making a whole big change. It helps protect teachers.
 RR: Can I also suggest a parent/staff committee to continue on with this. I love all of our 405 babies; we don't want to have bad relationships with parents. It may be a good idea to form a committee.
 Morgan: what was the goal for tonight? To vote or just discussion?
 RR: its just a discussion, we don't have enough parents to make the discission, do we want to go back to the old one? Then we will send out the vote. The 4 in inseam does cover all of the things.
 Male: Are you viewing it to what looks appropriate on the kids?
 Ashely: Kids in foster care don't get a choice, they won't get to choose the length of the pants. There are families that won't be able to make it.
 M and V: why write a policy? What are they protecting? Why do we need to have this policy?
 The issue of little girls' nipples showing looking into what other school districts have done its not solving the problem, its subjecting girls being sexualized.
 RR: what would happen if I showed up in the policy right now as the principal, when we're trying to prepare children for their careers and when we pay attention to what they are wearing then we are not preparing them correctly. It is great to hear the perspective.
 Parent b: school uniforms do not help with attendance.
 Morgan: what would be the purpose of the committee?
 RR: criteria of what people want or don't want. The committee would get rid of some negativity and animosity that this process has brought.
 RR: 60% of our families need to approve the choice and we can send it to Board Meeting.
 Judd: Read old dress code.

RESOLUTION

- It was decided that Dr. Rodriguez will put out a vote, Families will have 3 choices:
1. Leave everything alone, use current TUSD dress code
 2. Go back to 2018-2019 TUSD dress code where there was more criteria in place.
 3. Create a committee to come up with a dress code specifically for Wheeler students.

VII. Submission of items for next agenda.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38P.M. by Jody Lake