



Wards Creek School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The Wards Creek Elementary Advisory Council Meeting commenced in Wards Creek Room 580 on November 16th, 2023. Kelly Neel made a motion to call the meeting to order and Danielle LoPinto seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried forward. The meeting started at 3:32 PM. Morgan Brown recorded the minutes for this meeting.

- II. **Notes:** Approved October 2023 notes. Jennifer Monk made a motion to approve, and Danielle LoPinto seconded the motion.

III. Principal Update/ Reflection

a. **Character Counts Business Partners:** All schools are invited to nominate a business partner. This year the Anderson family was nominated.

b. **Fall Festival:** Very well received and was a great time for families.

c. **Buddy-a-Thon :** Buddy-a-thon vendors were very appreciative of all the support of PTO and Mr. Richard. Everyone was very helpful with whatever was needed.

d. **Literacy Parade:** With all the growth in the school it took 25 minutes to get kids out of the building. Kids still had a blast. The kids loved seeing the parents. It was a great event.

e. **Veterans Day Parade:** Amazing turnout and it was an enjoyable event.

f. **School-Related Employee of the Year Celebration :** Jen Lusk was voted school related employee of the year. Kevin is very happy to recognize her.

g. **Current Data** – Second diagnostic will be in December and January. This will be the diagnostic that will show where students are currently with their growth.

h. **Capital Outlay Projects :** Ordering 25 more laptops which will be headed to 5th grade. Science and writing are on computer this year. Mrs. Montanez is teaching computer literacy and helping support students in typing to prepare for the writing portions of test. Kevin will also be ordering some more document cameras that need to be updated. Kevin is very thankful for all the support from PTO.

i. **Leaders with Character :** Kevin is always trying to share the why. Every 9 weeks was his favorite time to have the leaders with character event in the cafeteria. Changes had to be made due to the growth of the school. He is still trying to maintain the small school feel by having it done in the classroom with the classroom family. Trying to figure out the logistics of the growth in the school so that we can continue to celebrate them. Kevin apologized for not communicating it as effectively as he would have liked. He will discuss with the team leaders and brainstorm some ideas in the future.

j. **Dr. Anthony Muhammad Presentation:** Discusses culture. There are 4 different levels. The believers, the tweeners, the survivors, and the fundamentalist. The goal is that believers



will outshine the fundamentalist. School culture is very important at Wards as well as understanding the why.

k. Homework and Grading : Kevin is here to support his teachers. He shared a story about his son Eli and how his son's homework grade negatively impacted his son's grades which otherwise would have been an A. A conversation was had with the teacher, and they discussed philosophies of formatives and summatives. Homework is put as responsibility. His grade suffered because of it even though he received A's in the classroom. If we are teaching to mastery, why is homework counted as a grade. If this was a standard class homework wouldn't have been graded. Son ended up taking standard courses and received straight A's. Kevin doesn't believe in homework but knows that homework is put in place to practice skills. He will not micromanage teachers if the homework is to reinforce a skill. Are the students doing what they need to do in the classroom? If it takes more than the age limit, then he will talk with the teachers. Homework isn't going to go away. Kevin believes in the summative test not what the homework says. Homework is not graded on the elementary level. In middle and high school, it is.

IV. Old Business

a. SAC Budget:

2,286.88 in line 102 (510)-SAC Account

1,003.92 in line 805 (200)-School Recognition

146.72 in line 805 (369)-Tech Rentals

Reviewed SAC budget. The Sample ballot was reviewed. As per Kevin he is unsure if funds will be received. Voting still needs to take place on how we would use funds if received. Kim Pagan motioned to approve the sample ballot. Danielle LoPinto seconded the motion.

VI. PTO Updates

a. Veterans Day parade: A lot of compliments were received about the parade. It was a very enjoyable experience.

b. Buddy-a-thon: It was a great success. We were able to receive sunshades.

c. Fall festival: The first year it was outside. Students had a wonderful time.

d. Teachers: Soup and grilled cheese for the teachers coming up.

e. Holiday Market: Will take place on December 15th. Vendors, photo opportunities, and cookies. First time this event is happening.

f. Christmas tree decorating contest: December 1st-15th. The trees will be voted on at the market. Trees will be set up in main office lobby. Each grade level will choose a theme.



Class parents will come in a decorate the tree. They will be brought into the cafeteria on the day of the market all decorated. The winner will receive a treat from the PTO.

g. Holiday grams: They will start on the 11th – 15th of December.

h: Yearbook: The cover page design must be submitted by Monday. A reminder will be sent out.

V. Questions/Concerns

Question : Could the courtyard be an area the character counts awards could take place?

Answer: It is being considered. Kevin is wanting to have parents register in advance for the event so that he can go back to how leaders and character use to be. Waiting to hear back from district. He is looking for adjustments so that everyone can be involved. Kevin is working on finding ways to make more opportunities for parent involvement.

Question: What is our enrollment number at ?

Answer: 1220 is the enrollment number. Next year there will be rezoning to help with school sizes.

Question: Is classwork graded?

Answer: No. Summatives are 70 percent of the grade.

Question: Are the classes all learning the same things?

Answer: Teachers all give the same formative and summative assessments. There is common learning across the board. Experiences are the same from classroom to classroom. Homework is created independently (teacher prerogative).

Question: Why are chorus students not singing at the event Holiday Market event?

Answer: A different night will be dedicated to chorus. Several upcoming opportunities for chorus students to sing.

VI. Next Meeting – December 14th, 2023

VII. Adjourn

Jennifer Monk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Pagan seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 4:02

Attendance

Chair: Kelly Neel

Secretary: Morgan Brown

Principal: Kevin Klein



Members/attendees present:

Christie Francis
Danielle LoPinto
Kevin Klein
Morgan Brown
Kelly Neel
Jennifer Monk
Kim McCutcheon
Kimberlee Pagan
Lisa Eckert-Brubaker
Magan Malicoat
Filiz Montanez