

Woodlawn Elementary Site Council Minutes

October 2, 2019

Members Present: Krystale Neitzel (president; parent); Jayci Roberson (principal); Denise Johnson (district representative); Kelly Jones (Board of Education rep.); Ted Boyle (NLNA); Joni Hybsha (parent); Amy Mason (HR at ICL); Renee Babin (teacher)

Principal's Report

- Walk to School Day: Over 70 students participated in the event today
- Garden Day: Denise Johnson came to school to assist with this event. The end product was a large salad with the different components being created by different grade levels. 4th-5th made dressing; 2nd-3rd cut tomatoes and peppers; k-1 cut lettuce. It was a huge hit with all the kids!!
- Food Pantry: This is located in the entryway of the building and is restocked every Monday. Families donate as they can and take as they need. Michelle Barnes (PIF) was pivotal in organizing this wonderful resource.
- Volunteer support: We have lots of volunteers this year from various organizations. Free State FireBird Friends, Americorps, various lunch buddies (retired members of the community) are in classrooms or the lunchroom working with students.
- October 21-25 is Red Ribbon Week. This is organized by the Elizabeth Halsey (school counselor). Each day of the week will provide students with an opportunity to dress up according to the theme related to self-care and anti-drugs.
- GCE slides update: Last year we partnered with a school in Kenya to share various happenings between the countries at various grade levels. There were connectivity issues due to technology glitches. This year the focus will be more narrow with an eye towards learning about one another's culture and day to day life in 4th grade. The school from each country will create one or two slides each week about their daily life to share with one another.
- Contact Us (Let's Chat!): In order to facilitate communication between our building and the community, a direct link has been added to our school web page that gives direct access to either Andi or Jayci. The contact is anonymous. So far there have been 10 different contacts made. The goal is to make contact within 24 hours. Most of the issues that were raised have been fairly simply, but there were two important issues raised that were dealt with immediately.
- Sign update: We applied for a new sign with the city that would follow the city's new protocol for signage. The school has had to spend \$300 to apply for a variance that would meet the new code guidelines. Tammy from Luminous Signs has been helping us

with the project. The meeting is October 3 at 6:30 PM. The new sign should be up within the week after this meeting.

School Board Report: Kelly Jones

- Policy committee: A district-wide equity policy is being worked on and will be run by the district's parents of color group. The policy will impact how we monitor equity issues that are raised in the district.
- Dress code: This is being developed by the district and will mostly apply to middle school and high school students. Teachers will be asked to provide discreet feedback to students so that their dignity can be maintained. The policy will be gender neutral and may include items that apply to staff as well as students.
- Elementary AVID program: The district is trying to determine if this program is appropriate for elementary schools. The program is designed to help students with organization and executive functioning to help them be more successful in school.
- A new negotiations process was started last year between the LEA and the district. The new process is much more collaborative and more reflective of the school culture we are trying to create. It also starts the bargaining process earlier in the year so that the district's budget can account for what the union is negotiating for. At the moment the district is trying to analyze the budget to find \$1.1 million that will be used for teacher salary increases. This will need to happen without increasing the budget.
- Lockdown at LMCMS last week: This didn't go as well as it could have and many lessons have been learned. New systems are being put into place so that not as many errors are made if there is ever a need for a lockdown again.
- Vaping: There has been an explosion of students vaping at the middle and high schools. Many students are getting their vaping products from adults that buy items for them. The City and State are looking to put a warning sign on products that say that buying vape products for minors is a punishable offense.

USD 497 District Rep—Denise Johnson

- At least 50% of LPS students walked to school today. Denise shared a video of Dr. Lewis walking with his children to school at Langston Hughes. Some schools provided an opportunity to "walk at school;" bike riders also were included in the walk to school count.
- October is Farm to School Month: Information will be shared each day about this event; October 16th will be Apple Crunch day. The district will try to coordinate a

time when everyone in the district will take a bite (CRUNCH!) out of a locally grown apple.

- November 14: There will be a Safe Routes community meeting to discuss any concerns the community may have about traffic, safety, etc...

NLIA--Ted Boyle

- Three brand new pumps were purchased to replace the old ones that remove water from below the bridge. Neighborhoods were flooded because of power outages that caused the pumps to either not work or to explode. The neighborhood also needs a back up generator to eliminate any worry about flooding that prevents people from being able to use the North Lawrence bridge. The pump that was purchased four years ago works great, but a lot of water is not getting to the pump.
- North Lawrence is no longer considered a “low mod” neighborhood due to all the development happening in the neighborhood. This means that NLIA isn’t eligible for federal money that has been used in the past for traffic calming and other such programs.
- NLIA picnic was very successful! The mayor and several city commissioners were in attendance along with city commissioner candidates. The new city manager also attended. Ted is very impressed with this guy!

ICL--Amy

- Teams from the factory will be come to the OWLS area and stain the gazebo, pull weeds, lay mulch, etc. Early morning shift workers are looking for other projects that could be useful to the neighborhood. Another volunteer would like to bring some students to the LINK kitchen. Thank you ICL for all you do for our students!

Next meeting is December 4th!