

School Family & Community Council

October 11, 2022

Meeting Minutes

SIGN IN

Bethany Jacobs, Assistant Principal
Rachel Satti first grade teacher
Megan Wysong 3rd grade rep
Tyrone Crosby, parent of 3rd grader
Amalie Ward, Community rep
Jane Richardson, parent of pre-k and 2, pre-k class rep
Heather Owens, (2nd grade parent)
Brian Owens, (2nd grade parent)
Mike Addabbo, K and 2nd grade parent
Danielle Shapiro, parent of 3rd graders (twins)
Tahilin Sanchez Karver, 3rd grade parent/rep
Alissa Burkholder Murphy, (K & 2nd grade parent)
Carrie Moore, 5th grade rep
Toja Okoh, Parent of 2 first graders and also first grade rep.
Keyonna Saunders 3rd Grade teacher
Michael Johnson, Assistant Principal
Molly Allen, K and Pre-K rep
Tracy Demissie, 4th and 5th grade teacher
Zafar Shah, 7th grade parent
Jonathan George Karver, 3rd grade parent

I. Introduction

All Grade Representatives in attendance introduced themselves.

Pre-K: Jane Richardson
Kindergarten: Molly Allen
Kindergarten: Walter Alston
1st Grade: Toja Okoh
1st Grade: Allison Scott Berkheimer (not in attendance)
2nd Grade: Jenna Lingsch
2nd Grade: Katy Chib (not in attendance)
3rd Grade: Tahilin Sanchez Karver
3rd Grade: Megan Wysong
4th Grade: Tavian Cardwell

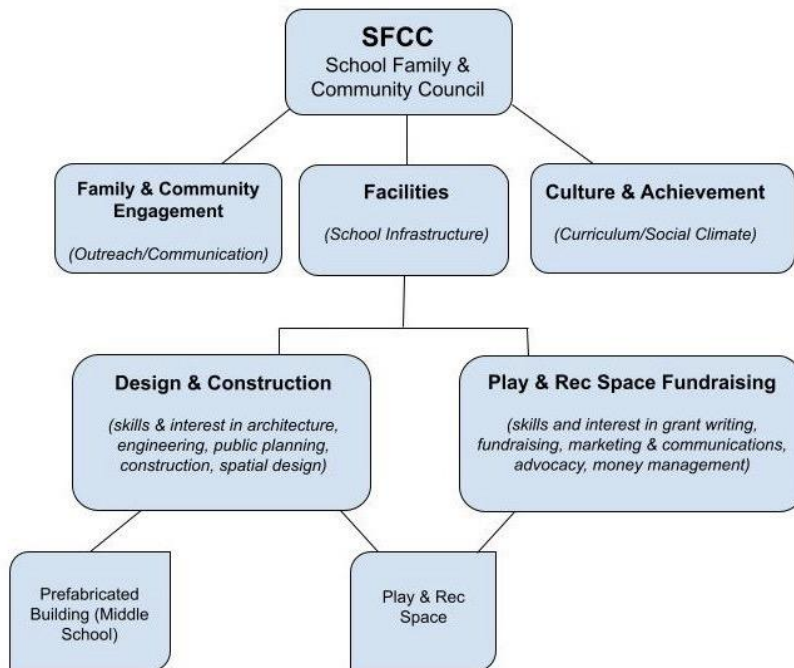
5th Grade: Carrie DeLeon
6th Grade: vacant position
7th Grade: Zafar Shah
8th Grade: Maria Montoya (not in attendance)
Community: Amalie Ward

II. Adoption of 09.13.22 Meeting Minutes

1. 09.13.22 Meeting Minutes were adopted.
2. In an effort to increase transparency and inclusion, the minutes were translated to Spanish and are available on the Mount Washington School Website at <https://www.mountwashingtonschool.org/school-family-council>. All Grade Reps are asked to send a link to the minutes to their class via Bloomz post.

III. SFCC Organizational Chart

Toja Okoh presented a graphic organizational chart that she created to illustrate the relationship between the various SFCC committees and sub-committees. Grade Reps have been asked to send the chart to their class via Bloomz post.



III. Culture and Achievement Committee Update:

Chair, Zafar Shah provided the following update: The Committee met 10.04.22 to identify current topics of concern. They sent the list to Ms. Long ahead of tonight's meeting for her review and comment. Her written responses are shown below in blue italics. Ms. Long was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to a family emergency - Ms. Jacobs answered questions raised in tonight's meeting.

1. General enrollment update: Class sizes, teacher:student ratios. Catchment enrollment, non-catchment enrollment. *Ms. Long's written response: Attached is the enrollment summary as of today. We have 545 students. There are 2 classes at each grade level except 7th which has 3 sections and Pre-k which has 1 section. The 4/5 split has 28 students.*
 - The Enrollment Summary referenced by Ms. Long is attached at the end of these minutes.

2. 4th/5th grades split. What is the long-term plan for students who are split up this year? *Ms. Long's written response: What do you mean "students who are split up"? The 4th graders remain in the class and 5th moves to honors. The curriculum they use is based on moving into honors for middle school. I hope this answers your question.*
 - Megan Wysong (3rd Grade Representative) asked for further information on the 4th/5th split class so that she may share it with the 3rd grade families.
 - It was decided that this topic requires a "deep dive." Those interested in continuing to discuss this topic are encouraged to attend the next Culture and Achievement Committee meeting; time and date will be announced on Bloomz.

3. Has MWS curriculum changed how spelling is taught? *Ms. Long's written response: We follow the district curriculum and spelling is encompassed in the phonics portion of lessons. It also is addressed during writing. Spelling is not taught in isolation.*

4. Is the elementary school using a Response Classroom point system? *Ms. Long's written response: We do not have a school wide point system.*

5. Update on Restorative Practices: outcomes, contractor, renewal of contract, visibility. *Ms. Long's written response: We are enacting the restorative practices*

protocols but are not aligned with a vendor specific to restorative practices. We are awaiting our site license for Second Step. This is a program for K- 8 implemented by the social worker and school psychologist to promote social emotional learning.
<https://www.secondstep.org/>

- Ms. Jacobs gave an explanation of restorative practices. More information can be found at <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/restorative-practices> which defines restorative practices as “Strategies that build on open, respectful communication to reduce conflict and repair harm.” She also explained that once the contract with Second Step has been finalized the school will be able to provide more information about the program.

- CHAT

Daniel Shapiro: ... just from a quick look, Second Step looks like a digital program. Is that its main format or are there other aspects?

Jenna Lingsch: Is there a timeline for informing parents about Restorative Practices

Molly Allen: Is there a standard system of consequences or interventions, like a list that can be shared? Nothing about any individual students, just the standard protocol.

- Ms. Jacobs stated that the Code of Conduct is available on the City Schools website.
- Ms. Jacobs explained that the school cannot disclose any information about how or when the school uses restorative practices because it would be illegal to do so.

- CHAT

Tahilin Sanchez Karver (She/her): Before moving on just wanted to reiterate Meghan’s request. I also think information on 4/5 grade honors or other programs would be useful for parents in 3rd grade. So any information that the school could provide even as early as 3rd grade is valuable.

Amalie Ward: If we do set up any follow-up on the split class. What I heard parents concerns with during the first iteration of the split class was that there were students identified as gifted or advanced who were not in the honors class. The selection was not as transparent by the district as parents would like. If there are other gifted/honors programming that could be looked at as an alternative, that would also be appreciated. Ms. Demissie did a fabulous job teaching it!

- It was decided that this topic also requires a “deep dive.” Those interested in continuing to discuss this topic are encouraged to attend the next Culture and Achievement Committee meeting; time and date will be announced on Bloomz.
6. Gender neutral/non-binary spaces: is this a factor in ongoing renovation and prefab building plan? *Ms. Long’s written response: The bathrooms are a consideration and that is the reason for the current renovation. Are you talking about any other space?*
- The Facilities Committee (Design and Construction sub-committee) might want to take this up as something to track the building process. A good opportunity for this will be at the upcoming community meeting tentatively scheduled for November (specific date TBD).
7. How is MWS prioritizing inclusion and diversity in the curriculum? Can we obtain a list of readings that are being used in each grade? *Ms. Long’s written response: We are working with City Schools and have a school-based equity team that is working in conjunction with City Schools Office of Equity. There are four focuses for equity as outlined by City Schools. We are working on the following equity focus: Ensuring Access and Representation in Academic Programming. Attached is the list of reading for literacy class.*
8. Update on IB application for elementary school. *Ms. Long’s written response: This has been on hold as we have been focused on reentry to school after COVID.*

IV. Community Engagement Committee Update:

1. Mike Addabbo gave an update on the revised MWS website:
 - There is a new hosting service, the account has been set up with Square Space.
 - Mike is working to complete the map of the new website and will soon delegate responsibilities to those who have volunteered to help.
 - The calendar on the current website will be updated, and the newsletters will be uploaded by 10.17.22.

Zafar added that the [SFCC page](#) on mountwashingtonschool.org is still being update with information about Council meetings. There is a form on the page that the public may use to flag issues for the Council. However, in the desktop format of the site, the form only half appears on screen. In mobile format, the form shows up and is completely usable.

A few weeks ago Ms. Jacobs led a Bloomz tutorial for Grade Reps, and she has offered continued Bloomz support as needed. Grade Reps who cannot access their class(es) on Bloomz should reach out to Ms. Jacobs directly.

- CHAT

Tahilin Sanchez Karver (She/her): For consideration: any possibility that the SFCC meeting minutes could be posted to the MWS general Bloomz channel at the same time as it gets posted in the Facebook discussion group? That way everyone gets them at once

It has been suggested that Grade Reps organize a “Council Cafe.” Something similar to office hours, this would offer the opportunity for parents/guardians to meet and discuss issues at the top of their mind. This could be done as an individual grade, or as a block of grades. The middle school is experiencing a lack of alignment, perhaps this would bring folks together. For the younger grades, it may be more effective to organize a class playdate. The third grade recently hosted a successful grade-wide playdate at Northwest Park.

V. Facilities Committee Update:

Co-chairs, Toja Okoh and Molly Allen gave the following update: The Facilities Committee held a Playground Sub-Committee meeting a few weeks ago, it was determined that the first step of the process will be to confirm BCPSS’s playground design guidelines and regulations. The Facilities Committee (Molly Allen and Toja Okoh) contacted BCPSS requesting the BCPSS’s guidelines and regulations for playground design/renovations. BCPSS has responded, saying they first need to meet with MWS Administration to understand BCPSS’s contribution to the project and will in the meantime prepare a Guidance Package. Ellie Mitchell, president of the MWIA attended the Playground Sub-Committee meeting and offered to participate in the Committee’s work.

The Playground Sub-Committee also met at the existing playground a few weeks ago and brainstormed design ideas, both for the short and longer term projects.

Ms. Amnastee’ Graves of BCPSS has confirmed that the next community-wide update meeting with BCPSS will be held in mid-November. She will work with MWS leadership teams to schedule the meeting.

IV. Action Items

Grade Representatives:

1. If you haven't already, please post the following to your class(es) on Bloomz:
 - a. Organizational Chart created by Toja Okoh.
 - b. A link to the SFCC meeting minutes.
2. Consider organizing a "Council Cafe" or grade-wide playground meet-up.
3. If you do not have access to your class(es) on Bloomz, please contact Ms. Jacobs for assistance.

Committee Chairs: Schedule and Lead Committee meetings (to be held before the next SFCC Meeting Nov 1).

Next Meeting, November 1 at 6:30pm. Zoom Link provided on Bloomz calendar and MWS website.