

# SFC Council

## *General Meeting Minutes*

6:00 p.m., Tues., 12.05.23

(virtual meeting)

### Greetings & Introductions [5 min.]

1. Essence/Toja: Introduction of the Agenda and guests joining the meeting today
2. Budget Priority Survey link:  
<https://www.mountwashingtonschool.org/blog/priority-engagement-session-sy24-25>
  - a. Very important to have people fill out this survey to inform next steps
3. PTO Announcements
  - a. Kata reminded people to check the website and Parent Square for updates
  - b. Holiday Market was a success
    - i. Preorders of school gear link:  
<https://www.mountwashingtonschool.org/mws-gear-preorders>
  - c. Tomorrow, 12/6, there is a Chipotle Dine Out fundraiser
  - d. 12/6: Talent Show tryouts with Mr. C after school and again on 12/13; not to discourage or gate-keep but to make sure every act is appropriate
    - i. Date of the Talent Show TBD
  - e. Next Wednesday 12/13 is the PTO meeting
  - f. 12/15, Movie Night event and PJ party
  - g. Toja reminded grade reps to join the PTO group on Parent Square

### Leadership Team Updates & Announcements [10 min.]

1. Mrs. Brown/Essence - TBD
  - a. First two open houses were great! Student leadership talked about why they love MWS
  - b. Another event this Saturday
  - c. Celebrated Ms. Booker (a custodian) who retired and Councilman Yitzzy participated
  - d. Ms. Booker will train the new custodian, Mr. Jennings, who is a graduate of MWS
  - e. Instructional leadership team meets 2x month (Ms. Piat and Ms. Demissie)
  - f. Each Friday there is an update
  - g. Mr. Ellerby (Language Arts) is out and there are some adjustments to his schedule
  - h. Mr. Marcus' organization, Diamonds on the Rise, is helping to train our Art teacher, Ms. Karmen Ball-Brown
  - i. MWS #5 elementary school in the city  
(<https://www.southbmore.com/2023/11/30/tjems-federal-hill-prep-and-fsk-rank-in-baltimores-top-6-elementary-schools/>)
  - j. District will post testing soon; last year we had 3.5 stars; we will get to see the update soon (<https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/>)

## **SFC Council Committee Updates & Announcements [10 min.]**

1. Toja (Chair & Facilities):
  - a. Report on attendance at the FCE Fair/Training (Wed., 11/15/23)
    - i. MWS is now part of the overall district's FCE network. We were not on their radar last year but this year we have access to resource fairs and training
    - ii. Goal of training is to bring SFCCs in alignment with the rest of the district
    - iii. May want to revisit our own committee structure in 2024
    - iv. Lots of enrichment (academic and mental health) resources
  - b. Playground Update
    - i. One more round checking on remaining play equipment and ground covering
    - ii. Put in work orders for those things
    - iii. Checked with TJ Distributors about the work; so far delayed
  - c. DOT Update - traffic flow and calming on streets surrounding the school campus

- i. DOT is prioritizing our campus now
  - ii. Mrs. Brown: weekly meetings to hear from DOT re details with the move, esp bus drop off and pick up and
  - iii. DOT is working as quickly as they can to have signage up for transportation pieces; drop-off is looking to be at Kelly Ave
  - iv. Met with ILT team this morning; last meeting on 12/21 will be onsite and open to all families so that people can do a walk through before we head to holiday break
  - v. Then practice what it will look like outside
- 2. C&A Committee:
  - a. Victoria: Bmore Transform Partnership, supporting Middle School community building
    - i. Meeting with 6-8 over the next few weeks to talk about diversity & inclusivity
    - ii. Started this week by talking about identity and how our various identities influence how we move about the world and in communal spaces
  - b. Arts enrichment programming and support
    - i. Continuing to talk with arts orgs and waiting to hear back
- 3. FCE Committee:
  - a. Finalizing communication infrastructure for room parents/grade reps
    - i. Hoping to streamline volunteering
    - ii. Parent Square is still challenging for parent reps so FCE leads are working on some sort of a guide to train reps next year
    - iii. Trying to support parents/caregivers in the meantime
  - b. Outreach to teachers to offer support (flier/letter to be distributed)
  - c. Anything else?

## Community Forum [45 min.]

- 1. Principal Brown: Introductions
  - a. [I Need An Answer, Help! Document](#)
    - i. Credit: Molly Allen for creating the document
  - b. Wellness Team
    - i. Jill Kristy-Tyler, Social Worker
    - ii. Counselor (name?)
    - iii. Erika Hines, Sheppard Pratt
    - iv. Ms. Ford, Literacy Lead

- v. Ms. Essence, Community School Site Specialist
  - vi. Mr. Johnson, VP
  - vii. Marcus Robin (aka Mr. Rob to students), Diamonds on the Rise
  - viii. Susannah Santee, Parent Rep
  - ix. No guidance counselor this year because this year the district had a need at HS so they pulled ours
- c. New Staff
- i. Diamonds on the Rise and one committed part-time staff (recess support)
    - 1. SEL for students
    - 2. Assist students if they need any form of support
    - 3. Conflict resolution
    - 4. Offer support during lunch/recess
    - 5. 1-1 work with kids to help them understand who they are; answering questions they might have to help them become better-rounded individuals
    - 6. Working on communication skills and how to manage emotions when interacting with adults at the school
    - 7. Use some restorative practices
    - 8. Provide supervision at lunch/recess; if they notice conflict they get involved to diffuse the situation
    - 9. There were questions about Restorative Practices and so Mrs. Brown shared that she and Mr. Robin are trained in restorative practices
    - 10. Some members of the admin team are going to be certified in de-escalation; training might take place next year
    - 11. Mrs. Brown shared that we need to sign up more students for mental health treatment through Sheppard-Pratt because so far there is only one child who is signed up
      - a. The issue is that families whose children need the support are not signing off on their child working with Ms. Hines
      - b. Need to do work around destigmatizing
      - c. Toja asked if Sheppard-Pratt would work with us to talk with families about the value of mental health support
      - d. Maybe our response to Sheppard-Pratt is an ask around the fact that we do have a need but we need

support in actually shepherding families to sign up their kids

12. Mrs. Brown went into fine detail regarding the Help, *I Need an Answer!* flow chart. Some minor changes might need to be made.

- ii. New Art Teacher
- iii. Recess Hire is being processed now

2. Questions and Discussion

- a. Mrs. Brown plans to do a State of the School in January since it will be her 6-month mark
- b. It could be an energizing/informative moment for the community!

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS? [20 min.]

1. Recent Polls in Parent Square: Priority Budget Survey (<https://www.mountwashingtonschool.org/blog/priority-engagement-session-sy24-25>); SFC Council Topics Survey and Forum Topics Survey (<https://forms.gle/2h5fMUazzkgkGZX97>)
2. Communication Flow
  - a. Once we have all room parents organized and set up, SFC Council and PTO will send important information to families at the homeroom level
  - b. Streamline and regularize communication channels
3. Featuring Teachers of the Month in our Newsletter (the next one should go out mid-December).