

Hilltop Elementary School Council

December 6, 2022

The Hilltop Elementary School Council met in regular session on September 13, 2022, at 7:36 a.m. in computer lab at the school.

School Council Members Present:

Dr. Ovedia Glover, Principal

Dara Seamans, Assistant Principal of Instruction

Sandy Sawyer, Teacher

Shannon Grieshop, Teacher

Amber Haslett, Teacher

Shawon Moody, Teacher & Parent

Leah Aiken, Parent

Welcome

Dr. Glover welcomed everyone to our second school council meeting of the year and thanked everyone for coming.

Call to Order

Amber Haslett made motion to call meeting to order at 7:32 am. Shannon Grieshop seconded the motion.

2nd 9 Weeks Assessments

Dr. Glover made a call out last night concerning all things going on including assessments. GKIDs information posted last week. Mrs. Sawyer said they are continuing and finishing up MAPS. Mrs. Seamans said these must be completed before the 15th. They are working on HCLI levels with students in reading. The MAP assessment isn't in definitive format until system goes over it. Teachers can access HCLI scores any time. It is not anything new; we just want parents informed that we are assessing.

Technology Instruction

Study Island was purchased. Most teachers were familiar with this already. It is going well. Teachers received training in November on all components, i.e. How to create assignments, Diagrams, Group Assignments, Task forces. There will be sessions for grades 3-5 teachers to learn one component each month in depth to get full use of the program. 1 of 3 group sessions – they learned great things. There are 2 different types of games and 1 checkpoint. For example, place value can be pulled up on whiteboard and the students can see the same on their laptop. Teaching teachers what's best use to get best bang for our buck. It provides small groups. It keeps students engaged and teachers can see if they are still struggling. It provides rigor and is a new resource so getting it to best types of questions.

Mrs. Aiken asked what success we were looking for with Study Island. We are looking for focus, utilization of the program. The usage reports the time spent and blue ribbons for completing/mastering topic or section. The rigor of questions will help students. If we show success in gains to close gaps then we will probably buy again. We will reevaluate if no good gains or usage statements. It takes a few years to really get buy in from teachers. Fifth graders grew a lot last year.

Dr. Glover reminded that a program doesn't replace dynamic teachers. She wants to see teachers teaching not on their computer. We have great teachers

We are honing in on success to make sure students are successful. We are keeping up with latest research based instructional resources. Mrs. Aiken likes the play based learning like Study Island. Mrs. Haslett can see what students missed and dig deeper with the kids to see what they missed and why. She can see questions missed which she cannot always see with other programs.

We have a lot of technology instruction available such as the following: Reflex Math (purchased by Hilltop) for grades 2-5; Study Island (purchased by Hilltop) for grades 3-5; IReady (System purchased); Write Score (purchased by Hilltop); Haggerty Phonemic Awareness for grades K-2.

We also have Fountas and Pinnell's Sounds & Letters & Spell which is fast acting for struggling readers. Angela Foster will be here on January 6th for K-2 training. This is especially good for grades K-1 and for 2nd graders who have gaps. We will train and look at resources. It has hand motions for letters and blends. Mrs. Gutierrez in 1st grade came from Bonaire Primary School and already has understanding of this program. It takes 8-10 minutes a day in conjunction with phonics.

We have an open mindset with trainings available so we don't miss a bit. Equity and equality to even the playing field for all kids. Teachers understand and feel comfortable. We will provide a foundation with an extra layer of support to enrich or remediate as needed. We are scheduling walk throughs so teachers can see this in action.

Fountas and Pinnell's Writing Program for K-1 – Other schools using this. Pacing guides are already in SharePoint for the district. They are noticing a difference with growth. The program is a little slower paced but changes the way to teach writing and furthering the process. This is not in full implementation yet but will be next year.

We are having an I Ready challenge. It is the Gobble, Gobble Challenge. There will be a Gobble, Gobble trophy to celebrate them. We are supporting teachers. There are no big I's and Little us. Celebrate teachers of 2nd grade with lunch for really pushing it and doing it every day.

We want all students growing and learning. We want kids to do more.

Community and Communications

We do a great job at communication and working with the community for things. We are collecting black eyed peas (500 cans) for Perry Community Outreach. Mrs. Slane and Mrs. Stafford work with students. Anyone who may need Christmas. We are helping these students. Mrs. McClendon's church is helping to sponsor children. If you ever hear of needs let us know.

We are working towards being completely digital in communication. Parents are aware most messages come by DOJO, Facebook announcements, Instagram and all accounts to communicate with parents. We

still have some parents who may not like or not have technology, maybe a grandparent. We will continue to give paper to them. We are pushing for 100% but hopefully we will have 0 handbooks printed next year.

Ms. Coley is directing the Winter Concert during the school day today. Parents will be in the building. Safety is our priority. Hearts always open and we want our doors open too. If you are sick stay home. This is always the case, not just since Covid. We appreciate Ms. Coley for putting together the 2-3 grade and K-1 grade performance. Then 4-5 grade Chorus perform tonight. We are feeding them pizza and juice if they are staying after school for the performance. We will be safe. Kids need to be kids again and to sing again. Ms. Coley is new to the system. We are helping her out and being supportive.

We have about 600 students as of right now. Mrs. Slane is in charge of students and numbers. We had a parent come in yesterday wanting to enroll his child (his older children had been through Hilltop). We have parents that love Hilltop. We do what's right by them. Purpose of the school is for students to learn. Our mission and vision are pushed every day. We will probably have changes after first of year in enrollment due to families moving in and out of the area.

PreK is having their PAC time Thursday. Spelling Bee is Thursday at 9am for 3-5 grades. We have 12 students in this. Quiz Bowl next Wednesday. Tuesday is Chorus. Utilize the calendar. Mrs. Stihl and Mrs. Franz are going to the Quiz Bowl. Mrs. Franz is retiring next year. We have around 5 teachers retiring next year. Since we are aware of people retiring we are starting to remodel who will be taking over the quiz bowl and 4th grade GTE.

We are working on Ms. Moody. She has been teaching EBD faithfully. It is Dr. Glover's desire to grow her back to general education. Mrs. Haslett has jumped 2 positions with Dr. Glover.

We will get projected numbers for next school year on 2/22. Haslett is in charge of Job Fair. Last Friday Haslett celebrated teachers with prizes, Plinko, Karaoke and Olive Garden. We have had holiday dress up days.

There are 9 days of school left. Watch calendar for dress up days and events. Mrs. Brantley may do a quick caffeine cart for the teachers. We will have the Penguin Shop.

We had a PTO meeting, and all positions are filled pending background checks. Hopefully by January we will be able to say for sure. Mrs. Simmons, Jason and Wendy Wood are still involved but in the backseat. We will use Sign Up Genius for volunteers. We have 4-5 parents in room 105 setting up for the Penguin Shop.

We are a community school – the best one ever.

Closing

Dr. Glover thanked everyone for coming. If you need anything let us know.

Amber Haslett made the motion to close the meeting. Mrs. Aiken seconded the motion at 8:17 a.m.