

Hilltop Elementary School Council

March 8, 2022

The Hilltop Elementary School Council met in regular session on December 7, 2021, at 7:35 a.m. in the media center at the school.

School Council Members Present:

Dr. Ovedia Glover, Principal

Dr. Ruth Bennett, Assistant Principal of Instruction

Amber Haslet, Teacher

Sandy Sawyer, Teacher

Shannon Grieshop, Teacher

Christie Baggett, Parent

Leah Aiken, Parent

Welcome

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

Call to Order

Shannon Grieshop made motion to call meeting to order at 7:40. Christie Baggett seconded the motion.

Technology

Technology is the language that speaks to the babies. Pre-k – 5th grade received learning devices. Dr. Glover asked the parents how they were feeling about the devices. Mrs. Aiken said that some parents have it at home already. She is concerned that taking it back and forth to school is a lot of weight on the child's back. Plus parents have to remember. Mrs. Baggett agrees. Haslett reminded them that there is an opt out option.

Pre-K and kindergarten received iPads that stay at school. 1st grade received Chromebooks that stay at school. 2nd -5th grade received Chromebooks that they take home daily to charge. There is a \$10 learning device insurance available. Students are able to keep these devices during summer break.

This device is theirs for the next 3-5 years. All the updates will be done through the school. The money is paid through the portal. It is about \$250 to replace each device. If the child throws the device on purpose then the parent has to pay for it. However, with the insurance if it is accidentally sat on or stolen it is covered. A computer man comes every Monday. He picks up the devices that need repairs.

Everyone has the option to opt out. But textbooks will be mainly on device for next 3-5 years. Parents can say too heavy. Dr. Glover can give them the opt out form If Haslet or Sawyer say this is homework assignment then they need to be sure they have a device and network at home. No computer or internet is no excuse. Mrs. Aiken asked if the homework would only be on the device or if it would be on

a cloud? Right now it is on cloud but that could change. Some apps do not work for lower grades such as I-Ready. If someone wants to opt out they need to call Dr. Glover. Teachers are going to give assignments and use devices. If we go virtual then they will need devices for that. Some babies are not as fortunate to have devices at home. If there is no homework, teachers can have a cubby or computer area in the classroom. But the chargers are at home. Teachers decide when the devices need to come home. Less than 10 parents have opted out.

Teachers are teaching responsibility. Students can keep their device during summer break. On March 14th, we will have a contractor here to view and upgrade our system. He will measure signal strengths to see if we need any adjustments. Mrs. Baggett said the device is a good thing, especially if a family has multiple children who have to share personal devices. If no internet at home then the system has resources for those families. They can be issued a hot spot. The cost of internet is hard on some parents. If the parents need internet they are to contact Dr. Glover. This is a district initiative and doesn't cost the school anything.

3rd Grade Market Day

Dr. Bennett discussed the 3rd Grade Market Day. All 3rd grade students at Hilltop participate. It was held at the Cary Martin Center on March 3rd. Students create a business plan, manufacture a product, advertise, sell, and buy. Students earn money in the classroom. They take their money and product to Market Day. They set up their displays. The stock market bell rings then half shop and the other half sell. Then they switch halfway through. The students had a wonderful time.

5th Grade Oratorical Contest

The 5th grade GTE class was given the following topic: "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times." Students write and memorize a two-minute speech about this topic. They picked 8 finalists out of 23 students. We held the HES Oratorical Contest on March 4th with those 8. Mrs. Franz 4th grade class was the audience. The categories judged were poise, speech content, depth, deliver, presentation, sense of confidence, and overall effectiveness. Ava Green had the top score and goes to compete at the Board Office on Friday, March 11th. This is a competition among all elementary schools.

K – 5th Map Growth Assessment

The window for the Map Growth Assessment is March 14 – 24. This is the third administration of this assessment. K-2nd will be assessed in reading and math. 3rd – 5th will be assessed in reading, math, and language arts. This is a computer-based assessment. It is an adaptive test meaning the tests difficulty adapts to the performance of the student, getting harder or easier following a correct or incorrect answer respectively. Students set growth goals. The results are overnight for growth and gaps. Results are used to identify next steps for instruction. For example if a student to learn a prior skill then it will be taught. This can be done one on one or to a small group as needed. Mrs. Haslett and Mrs. Sawyer do this in their EIP classes. For example a 4th grade student may need help with a 3rd grade standard.

50's Dance

Pre-k through 5th grade will participate in a 50s Dance. We will be celebrating 50 days of school remaining. It will be held on March 16th during regularly scheduled specials. Students dress in 50's style clothes. Concessions will be sold. DJ Sunshine will be there. Coach Harrelson will teach some 50s dances.

Upcoming Dates

The following are upcoming dates:

- March 21 – Report cards issued.
- March 24 – 5th grade students visit Middle Schools
- GA Milestones
 - April 21 & 22 – 3rd and 5th Math
 - April 25, 26, 27 – 3rd and 5th ELA
 - April 28 – 4th Math ; 5th Science
 - April 29 – 4th Math
 - May 2, 3, 4 – 4th ELA
- May 5-13 – GMAP – 3rd, 4th, 5th field test for possible replacement of GA Milestones in the future.

The GA Milestones is a measurement of how students are growing. Teachers are teaching skills such as keeping track of time while testing. There is a lot of pressure during testing.

Mrs. Aiden asked for kids who don't place in gifted with testing, what is their placement in GTE based on? Dr. Bennett responded that this changes from year to year. It was Milestones. Now it is MAP. But the rubric also looks at other things such as reading, teacher recommendation, grades, etc. Once rubrics are scored, they are ranked. If there are 5 slots available then they will ask the top 5. Dr. Glover added that we have had a lot qualifying in the building. Allowing parents to make recommendations has helped a lot. Several 2nd graders placed. Formerly students were taken out of the classroom with their friends and tested. Now, the procedure is different. Parents take them to a testing site so there is not as much pressure. Mrs. Baggett asked what the benefit is to being tested. The GTE class has a faster curriculum and deeper content than regular classes. They read at a higher level and comprehend better. They are more challenged. If they test and qualify into the gifted program they are guaranteed a spot. If not then it is based on number of available slots.

4th grade parent lunch is Friday, March 14th. 5th grade parent lunch is March 17th. They are going to surprise 5th grade with something on Go Green Day. Everything will be green. They haven't told the kids yet. They want to make it big.

Field Day / May Day will be the 19th and 20th of May. 19th will be the upper grades, and 20th will be the lower grades. We are planning our safety procedures. We are hoping for parents to come but not sure yet.

Mrs. Aiken asked if we would be opening school to parents next year to walk students to class and eat lunch with them. Dr. Glover said we are moving towards opening it more. It will be up to the board office if it will be an open door policy or by invitation only. We are taking baby steps with lunch invites, Pre-K program by invitation, etc. Ms. Haslett explained that it is nerve-racking for teacher when a lot of

people are in the hall or just 1 without sticker or badge. We want to protect the children so we need to be safe. Mrs. Baggett said she can see both sides. Dr. Glover said it is good for the parent and the students but we could have assigned dates so parents can plan as well. Mrs. Baggett said it is good we have so much parent involvement. Dr. Glover said the monthly visits to lunch have been wonderful. How can we incorporate parents next year: May Day? Field Day? Curriculum Nights? Mrs. Aiken said a lot of parents want to come and meet and get to know the teacher better. She doesn't want to be invasive. It is hard to get to know them through DOJO. It was really nice to get to know Mrs. Thomas better at Market Day. Walking students to class and saying hi builds relationships. Dr. Glover said that all of our parents care. Just like with computers, once she started calling and communicating it was better. We cannot say anything concrete for next year. We think it will be more of everyone on same page. Teachers are excited.

Mrs. Aiken loves that Hilltop is about Safety First. Dr. Glover said sometimes there are custody/divorce issues. We cannot get involved in that. But they do bring it to school. We make sure we're in place and notified. That's the world we live in. Administration is highly visible, walking all the time both inside and outside of the school.

Dr. Glover thinks the school will be open next year. But she cannot say for sure. She will go by guidelines. Pre-K is having a face to face end of the year celebration by invitation. 5th grade wants to do something as well. We are going to have fun and the kids are going to love it.

Mrs. Aiken asked if there is anything we need from them for Teacher Appreciation Day? Dr. Glover said it is the week of May 2nd – 6th. She met with Mrs. Simmons about a food truck and gifts. They are also doing 1st Friday activities. This month they did a Nacho Average Teacher Bar. On March 17th, faculty and staff will have Go Green celebration. Mrs. Aiken said to let her know if they can help in any way.

On March 24th, PTO is having a face to face meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Media Center. We will need parents to be part of the committee and/or just a member of PTO. PTO is as active as they can be right now. They are going to do an ice cream or popcorn social to get revenue going again. Hopefully we will have parents who want to take over the committee.

Closing

Dr. Glover thanked everyone for coming. If you need anything call on us.

Amber Haslet made the motion to close the meeting. Christie Baggett seconded the motion at 8:37 a.m.