

Hilltop Elementary School Council

September 13, 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

Juan Manuel Figueroa, Parent

Christie Baggett, Parent

Leah Aiken, Parent

Mandy Cobb, Parent

Welcome

Dr. Glover welcomed everyone to our first school council meeting of the year and thanked everyone for coming. We are trying to move away from meeting in the Media Center because we want it to be available as a Media Center. We will only have 1 custodian for about 6 weeks. The purpose of today's meeting is to paint the picture and open up the school year.

Call to Order

Amber Haslett made motion to call meeting to order at 7:36 am. Christie Baggett seconded the motion.

Pledge of Allegiance

Walker Aiken led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

School demographics

At the beginning of the school year we had 530 students on paper. On day 8 we had 589 students on paper. The procedures by state guidelines and teacher to student ratio - 4 member team which she loves because 5th man always has to travel unless it's a pretty large school. Then they travel within the school.

We kept all of our EIP teachers, Haslett, Sayer, and Farr. We were blessed with another teacher from Bonaire Primary School in 1st grade. We now have 17 – 18 students in first grade classes. Growth was predicted for Bonaire Primary School but they lost 1 or 2 teacher slots.

We have a lot to celebrate – We are the best kept secret in town. Not always comfortable but what's best for kids. We have 593 as of today.

Digital Learning Day

Principals meeting at the board office tomorrow. Digital learning day is not designed for an 8 hour day on the computer. Now is it the parents job to teach that day? There are programs available at each school. There is flexibility for students to learn at home and for our teachers professional learning.

Lower grades didn't have as much work. Maybe 10 – 15 minutes of work. Teachers collaborate and plan. I would like feedback on the digital learning day; if Board of Education keeps it.

Mrs. Aiken said digital learning day took her by surprise. Her kids worked with her, then independently, and then with grandparents. Her 1st grader had about 30 minutes of work. Her 4th grader had about 2 -3 hours of work. She thought it was a reasonable amount of time. She said parents need more reminders. She did get the call out from Dr. Glover.

Mrs. Cobb's 1st grader had 30 – 45 minutes of work.

Mrs. Baggett said she has 16 email employees, so the digital learning day creates a work force issue. A lot of families are military and do not have family to help with kids. The student's work load was easy. They did it over the weekend. The childcare was the problem, so that her office can operate and patients can be seen.

Mr. Figueroa said it is tight to get to School Council meeting because of 2 schools. VHS is easy when kids on computer. It's a good extra thing to do.

Dr. Glover said our mindset and growth. We are a growing military town. A lot of schools have gone to 4-day school week with 1 day professional learning day for teachers. Pay attention to how we can keep growing. For example, during a Digital Workday, Ms. Moody has her own kids. So Dr. Glover has to be willing for her to bring them with her. We have to have a plan.

What is your plan for safety? We are starting clubs. We are growing as a school and a district.

Haslett – As employees we've always had professional learning days with kids not at school. So them not being at school is not new. We just added the distance learning component.

We have to pay attention to the calendar. There have been complaints about Dr. Glover doing the telephone call outs to parents.

Curriculum & Instruction – Mrs. Seamans

If there something we need to work on throughout the school year? Let us know.

We made purchases. Reflex math was \$4,000. We have seen dividends. Students are using it as a supplemental. It isn't graded. It is an extra layer of support.

Sawyer explained that 2nd – 3rd grade work on addition and subtraction fluency. 3rd – 5th grade work on multiplication and division fluency. The students get 3 greenlights per week for adequate engaging. It takes about 15 minutes to get green light if working intensely with program. It is self-paced. Fluency increased immensely. Reach out to the teacher if there are any problems.

Haslett added that it teaches strategies.

Seamans said we also have I Ready. Students are expected to complete 45 minutes per week in reading and math. Certain grade levels implemented their own expectations for that. We want to ensure passing 2 math lessons or 1 reading lesson. Students took the diagnostic in August. They have their own path. If they need remediation and if need acceleration is based on needs. Diagnostic is given 3 times a year – August, January, and May. It is fantastic. Instructions are based on needs. It has robots and coins, so the kids enjoy it.

We also purchased a program called Quaver Music. Our new music teacher has been phenomenal. She put in a request for instruments. We are enjoying working with her.

We use Write Score for 3rd to 5th grade.

Study Island is another program. 5th grade team purchased last school year individually, and it provides rigor in their questions. Scores went up. The students showed a lot of growth. The best teacher is a teacher. But this provides types of questioning that the students need.

I Ready provides a path based on students needs.

Study Island allows teacher to assigns lessons on content they are currently working on. The rigor shows growth.

Haslett said that some parents think there are too many programs. But when we have so many options the kids don't get burned out.

Seamans said Study Island is for the higher kids.

\$5k school allotment fund once Study Island is approved.

Parent Volunteers

We are bringing in parent volunteers this year. Background check is required.

Some things we can use parent volunteers for are as follows:

- help get kids across the street
- Standby mom – what class isn't covered this week.
- Call or come by and ask how can you use me.
- Parent to relieve teachers that are supportive and ready to help.
- Work with 2-3 kids. Read to or with them.

Cannot be for a conference, to grade papers, to look at reading levels. We will not break confidentiality.

Thank you for being willing to help and volunteer.

We are having Holiday lunches, Pre-K PAC time, and we are open for ideas. After 9/15 SLC Chorus and Art will be starting. Fundraiser intended for technology and curriculum use. PTO meeting before Fall Break. We will be having room parents again.

We want parents to be a part of us.

Our scores at every grade level have increased from 7 to 28 points. We'll talk about that more at next meeting.

These 4 parents here today are leaders. School Council put our voice out there.

Closing

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

Amber Haslett made the motion to close the meeting. Mandy Cobb seconded the motion at 8:08 a.m.