

School Council Meeting

October 19, 2023

Members Present

Mr. Wilson, Janet Mize, Ms. Lehmilller, Mr. Matthews, Ms. Cannon

Meeting began at 5:15

Welcome

Mr. Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Matthew and Ms. Cannon joined through zoom and the other attendees were in person.

Questions about programs and activities

Mr. Wilson shared that field trips have been approved under the condition of no overnight or extended day field trips. Mr. Wilson hopes that the grade levels take advantage of providing this opportunity for their students.

K-1 Literacy Night for November 18 is scheduled for a school event. The book *Dragons Love Tacos* written by Adam Rubin sparked the night's theme. Families will be able to enjoy a taco dinner and enjoy an evening filled with literacy. This event will be limited to 50 families.

There will be literacy nights planned for grades 2-3 and 3-5 at a different time.

Tentative field day dates are on the calendar. This event is tentative due to the future of CDC guidelines. The tentative date for Prek-2 is May 11 and 3-5 grades is May 12.

A possible event is Movie on the Lawn. Mr. Wilson expressed interest in bringing Russell families together for a fun event outside for all to enjoy.

Testing is still GMAS and will take place mid-April through the first week of May for grades 3-5. This test is not a national norm. There is a pilot test for GMAP that is nationally norm.

Mr. Fandry asked if the Thanksgiving and Christmas lunches will return for parents to eat the holiday meal with their children. Mr. Wilson hopes for a Christmas lunch, however, it will depend on the numbers and county guidelines.

Covid Questions

Mr. Wilson explained that Russell still follows CDC guidelines and is working to provide an environment in which students feel safe and comfortable coming to school.

I-Ready

The county purchased the K-5 program. The program is for reading and math. Students are required to work in the program at least 30 minutes in each subject. I-Ready will provide students with gaps in learning as well as the strengths of students. Students can close gaps by

working 30 min a week in the program. Teachers can also assign lessons in areas to provide support for the student where the student is not passing lessons in the program.

Students should grow 20pts and show 50% growth for the school year.

Reflex Math

Russell Elementary purchased Reflex Math for the students. Mr. Wilson feels students' high scores were a result of students using this program. Mr. Wilson encouraged council parents to sign in with their child so they could better understand the program. Students should be working in the program at least 3-5 days a week.

Questions

Mr. Matthews asked if students were on grade level. Mr. Wilson replied that students are pretty much on grade level. According to MAPS testing in August, over 50% of students are performing on grade level. Research shows that students can close a gap of 1 ½ years in one school year.

Site Improvements

Mr. Wilson informed the council that five new water bottle filling stations will be installed in the morning. The car rider ramp close to the school building where it is showing wear will be repaired. Mr. Wilson is still asking for lights on the parking lot for the safety of visitors and employees.

Mr. Matthews stated the new benches on the car rider ramp were nice.

Mr. Wilson shared Mr. Lee, who was principal from 1971-1995, donated \$1000.00 for the repair and upkeep of the school's nature center.

The council should review the date of November 18 to ensure that it works for everyone's schedule. The meeting time will be 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Wilson would also like to purchase and install a rock wall in the school gym that students can use during P.E. classes.

Mr. Wilson would also like to bring back the Santa Shop where students can purchase gifts for their family.

Meeting adjourned 5:50pm.

Future Meeting Dates

November 18, January 20, March 24, May 12.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Mize

