

WREC Parent Council Agenda/Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Members present: Dr. Corbett Babb, Kim Kutz, Michele Kauffman, Klint Neiman, Amanda Kusant, Maureen Hasty, Daniela Modesto, Denice Szekely, Zeina Arnouk Kanneh, Angella Jones, Lynsay Ladany, Tracy Weiss, Melissa French, Eliana Hoffecker, Catherine Mack, Michele Leisawitz, Bethany Emkey, Maria Hottenstein

Introductions/Role of Parent Council

Dr. Babb explained that the role of the WREC Parent Council is to facilitate open communication between the school building and the community. Parents are encouraged to bring issues/concerns to the meetings and will generally contact Dr. Babb before the meeting to ensure these items are placed on the meeting agenda. Each Parent Council member then introduced themselves and their student connection(s) to WREC and the district.

Starting the School Year...

Dr. Babb explained that the major emphasis for the start of this school year has been getting to know our students' needs – academic, emotional, and social. To this end, WREC early on established an academic “baseline” through benchmark and diagnostic assessments. Reading and math remediation groups are already meeting during the school day. Afterschool tutoring for math and reading will begin October 2nd.

Our Student Assistance Program has already taken two student referrals. Two student small groups are meeting regularly with our Caron rep and focusing on resiliency skills.

Overall, it has been a very smooth start to the school year. The fact that we were able to get those before-mentioned supports in place so early was the result of a lot of hard work across the entire staff and a concentrated focus on establishing a solid base to start the academic year. Future programming decisions for this school year will be well-informed by having established this solid baseline and regular reflection/progress monitoring in the months to come.

WREC Safety & Security

Dr. Babb explained the emphasis placed on providing a safe, secure learning environment. Monthly emergency drills are completed and performance reviewed each time they occur. The school's relationship with the West Reading Borough Police Department is excellent. The WREC Safety Team meets monthly to discuss specific safety and security issues. This team includes members from both grade levels, the school nurse, and other staff members.

Dr. Babb asked the Council members to bring any safety/security concerns to his attention during the 23-24 school year. Parent Council members did not have any safety/security concerns that they wanted to communicate at this meeting.

PTA 5th Grade Sleepover/PTA Glow Dance/6th Grade Day Camp

Since many Council members are also members of our PTA and/or highly involved in WREC's major events, The group discussed these three major school events for this year. Dr. Babb informed the group that the dates for these events are as follows:

5th Grade Sleepover: Friday, October 13, 2023

PTA Glow Dance: Friday, March 14, 2024

6th Grade Camp: May 23 & 24, 2024

Parents had a question about whether the 6th Grade team would be having the 6th Grade Wax Museum event. Dr. Babb told the group that it would be held again this year, but a date had not yet been set.

Other Issues Discussed:

Asked a question about when the WREC playground was opened to the public, Dr. Babb informed the group that the playground is open to the public Monday thru Friday from 7:00am until dark, with the exception of the 10:45-12:15 block when it is used by WREC students for recess.

A number of Parent Council members are volunteers for the JSBS Career Day. Several members spoke to the rest of the group about the high quality of the event and encouraged anyone interested to volunteer to help with this annual event. They spoke of numerous volunteer opportunities.

The next WREC Parent Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the WREC Library.