

WREC Parent Council Agenda/Minutes February 7, 2024

Members present: Dr. Corbett Babb, Melissa French, Bethany Emkey, Lynsay Ladany, Tracy Weiss, Michele Leisawitz, Christina Fam

Mid-Year Reflection/Update :

Dr. Babb updated the Council on the progress WREC students have made over the course of the first semester, both academically and socially. Academically, both grade levels have made significant gains on our various proficiency measures. WREC started its second round of afterschool math/reading tutoring this week with a record number of students (and teachers) taking part. Students were invited to participate in afterschool groups after the WREC staff studied mid-school year data and then targeted specific students who would benefit most from the afterschool remediation sessions.

Behaviorally, Dr. Babb described both grade levels as having “turned a corner”. Discipline referrals have decreased since the beginning of the year. The WREC staff has taken the time to discuss student behavior initiatives for the second semester and have already begun to roll some of those out to WREC students. WREC has also re-vamped our School-wide behavior supports program (SWEBS) to better match student needs/interests for the second half of the school year run.

“Teens & Technology” Programming

WREC will be partnering with the Council on Chemical Abuse to present “Teens & Technology” programming to WREC students and families during the month of March. Presenters will be coming to WREC on March 20 and 21 to meet with students during the school day. On the evening of March 20, WREC will host a K-8 parent meeting at 6:30 in the WREC cafeteria. Stay tuned for more details as we turn the calendar page to March.

Transitioning 6th Graders to 7th Grade

Dr. Babb spoke about the transition activities planned for 6th graders getting ready to move to 7th grade, as well as relating his observations of seeing 6th graders transition to the JSHS over the last fifteen years.

Upcoming PSSA Testing Windows

PSSA tests are scheduled for the weeks of April 22-26 (English/Language Arts) and April 29-May 3 (Math). All teachers have been involved in tracking student progress and focusing on what students need to know by the time PSSAs occur. The ELA PSSA test will take place over three days. The Math PSSA test will take place over two days, with make-ups taking place during the days that follow. A great deal of preparation organizationally will occur over the month of March leading into the April testing.

School Safety/Security Update

Dr. Babb spoke to a recent issue involving WREC Crossing Guards. With the district outsourcing our crossing guards to another agency, we do not always learn of changes in crossing guard personnel (namely retirements) until after the fact. This week, Dr. Babb heard from a parent inquiring about the lack of a crossing guard at one corner. Dr. Babb contacted the agency to find out that a crossing guard had retired and was being replaced by a new one the next day. A temporary arrangement was made between WREC and the West Reading Borough Police Department to have a police presence at that corner until the new crossing guard started work.

Recess/Outdoor Time

A Parent Council member asked about the recess schedule for WREC. Dr. Babb explained that fifteen minutes of the forty-five minute lunch/recess block is set aside for outdoor recess time at the WREC playground. At times, students receive a little more or a little less actual recess time depending on how long they take to transition out of the cafeteria. Fairly frequently, “extra” recess is a reward given to students monthly at WREC.

Upcoming dates of importance for WREC families include:

- PTA Book Fair - March 14-21
- Grade 5/6 Glow Dance – March 15
- Teens & Technology Presentation – March 20, 6:30pm

The next WREC Parent Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 8th, at 9:00am.