

Orchard Hills Elementary School Community Council Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2023

3:45- 4:45

- Committee members present were: Emily Giles, Krissi Tanner, Jessica Sharp, Kristy Openshaw, Keri Huntsman, Shelby Craig, and Alene Larsen.
Extra attendees: Penny McEntire and Ashley Bradley
 - Emily Giles motioned to start the meeting and Shelby Craig seconded the motion.
1. Read minutes from March 14
 - Emily Giles motioned to accept the minutes in September and Alene Larsen seconded the motion.
 2. Addressed the concerns about the allotted amount of time to eat lunch. Are there some better options, so that kids can stay and eat longer if they need to?
 - It was discussed that students used to go to lunch first, but many students were not eating and rushing out. We had a lot more students going out without eating at all vs. students who feel that they don't get enough time to eat.
 - The lunch schedule is based around specialties (40 min, 4 times a week per grade). It is also based on a formula based on teachers and technicians we have.
 - In the past there was not enough technicians and supervision going on, so it needed to be altered.
 - Another component was that in the past there was free lunch and the lines went faster.
 - When recess is second, the students also come in to the classroom really rowdy and wound up, but when lunch is second, they come in much calmer.
 - If your child needs more time to eat lunch, they can...
 3. Look back at Covid policies and see if there is anything optional at this point to lessen anxiety and issues that it may have caused. Can we undo anything at this point?
 - We have stopped the majority of protocols that were mandated.
 - We have kept the sanitizer that is available for students going in and out of the classrooms.
 4. How do we support the social and emotional needs of the students and meet their needs without placing more upon the teachers. What are the options and are there resources? Do we have enough in place already (Nana, Skills - Mrs. Hancock, counselor - 1/2 time)?
 - A full time counselor could be a possibility in the future. It is a financial driven decision and it is decided at a higher level. Secondary has a counselor all day, but they are doing classes, schedules, etc.

- Camp calm is there for anxiety and self-regulation. They set a timer for 10 minutes and then return to class.
- The social and emotional piece is a component that has appeared to be magnified over the past few years. The school is navigating it with the resources they have and trying to balance it to the best of their ability.
- The digital world/social media has also added a layer for the students to developmentally navigate appropriately and has caused some distress upon students.

5. Introduction of new counselor— Ashley Bradley

- Introduced and it was stated, “We know we have her until the end of the year.”
- Mrs. Bradley shared with us what she is doing here at Orchard Hills
 - Teach classroom lessons monthly, using “Sources of Strength.”
 - 5th grade receives Botvin lessons - Life Skills
 - Small group counseling
 - Individual Counseling

6. Introduction of new principal: Penny Mcentire

- She is excited to jump in and get to know the students and faculty.

7. Report on last year's plan

- Report will be looked over at next month's meeting.

8. 2023-24 Plan Signatures

- Committee was all in attendance and signed that they took part of the plans for next year.

9. All Day Kindergarten

- The bill was passed last week and it offers all day kindergarten to those who want it.
- Limitations:
 - Staffing - 30 positions were opened for hire across the district.
 - Meeting the needs of all, which are still being brainstormed.
- Orchard Hills will be adding another kindergarten teacher.
- Kindergarten registration opened on Mar. 1 and this information was not known at that time, but there has now been a question added in regards to all day vs. $\frac{1}{2}$ day that can be answered when you register kindergartners.
 - This survey was also sent out to parents that already registered, so they can be a part of this survey.
 - It is a district wide survey that will be looked over and then decisions will be made at a later date depending on the needs.

10. Other

- Class sizes are capped based on grade level. Upper grades can have a capacity of 35. If a class hits 36 - 37, they try to get another full time teacher.

11. Adjourn

- Motioned to adjourn Kristy Openshaw and Emily Giles seconded it.

Reminder: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19, 2023