

WREC Parent Council Agenda/Minutes

December 5, 2018

Members Present: Dr. Corbett Babb, Ms. Amy Miller-Cush, Tracy Weiss, Anne Anders, Michael Gentile, Matt Miller, Kim Voithofer, Kathy Herr, Jen Hyneman, Jen Beane, Gerald White, Sarah Reedy

Academic Achievement Update/PSSA Results/Adjustments for this Year

- Dr. Babb reviewed PSSA results from the 2018-19 school year. Results, while lower than previous years, still are tops in Berks County middle schools. He then reviewed the statewide shift from School Performance Profile (SPP) to PA Future Ready Index as the “public face” of school building academic achievement in Pennsylvania. He encouraged parents to log on to the website to see WREC’s results for 2018-19 and previewed the differences in what they would see compared to the old SPP website.
- WREC made instructional “adjustments” this year to address the trends in past math proficiency scores. These include a devoted morning time for fifth grade students to improve math fluency skills and devoting additional 6th grade first rotation time to math instruction.

Parent/Teacher Conference Input

- Dr. Babb asked the Council for their input regarding WREC’s format for parent/teacher conferences. Conferences occurred on November 19th and 20th. The general consensus was that parent/teacher conferences are valued and that we should continue to have them. Parents also made the following comments/suggestions:
 - “I would rather not have had my 6th grade student attending the conference with me as there were topics I didn’t feel free to discuss.”
 - “I would have rather have had access to all my student’s teachers rather than just their homeroom teacher. I would have liked more feedback from specific teachers.”
 - “I very much appreciated having my sixth-grade student at her conference as it made her accountable and we were able to discuss goals.”
 - “Parents would appreciate being given a questionnaire with topics/questions they would like to be addressed at the parent-teacher conference prior to the conference time.”

6th Grade Camp Update and Fundraising

- WREC began its coupon book fundraising campaign before Thanksgiving and it will continue into the month of December. Monies raised go towards funding the annual 6th Grade Camp Conrad Weiser trip. Dr. Babb also informed the Council that we will continue the practice of securing grants and raising monies through soliciting donations, the 6th Grade Wax Museum event, and having students pay a fee to attend the three-day camp. This sixth-grade class came into the 2018-19 school year with a lower

carryover balance than past classes which means that fundraising efforts may need to be ratcheted up to match needs. Dr. Babb is monitoring the situation and will make adjustments following the 6th Grade Wax Museum event in January. Several parents suggested soliciting donations from parents to make up this year's difference rather than raising student fees for all students.

School Safety/Security Concerns

- There were no parental concerns at this time. Dr. Babb alerted the Council that parents will be alerted to future emergency drills held at buildings prior to them occurring through District communication tools – eAlert, parent texts, etc.

The next WREC Parent Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.