Penn Elementary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024 6:30-7:30 pm

In attendance: Erica Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Missy Gogel (Secretary), Chloe Huber, Diane Liming, Theresa Bodie, Adria Cooper, Dr. Bolles

* Nominations and elections for next school year
  + Erica Fitzgerald (Chairperson)
  + Missy Gogel (Secretary)
  + (Vice Chairperson) *\*position open*
* SACI update- Council member (Ms. Abduazimova) not present to share what has been discussed
* State of the School- updates from Dr. Bolles
  + Penn’s vision
  + CIP updates
    - Science Center field trips (5th grade)
    - Family STEM night 1/25
    - More hands-on instruction
    - Math remediation before school
    - Panther Academy- after school remediation for 3rd and 4th grades
    - HS honor students tutoring in the afternoons
    - Chronic absenteeism decreased from 14% to 11.4% - progress!
    - Absences- irrelevant if excused or unexcused, all count towards total absences
    - PAWS parents
    - Itzy working with business partners
    - Multicultural Night- HUGE turnout!
    - Fun Run / Color Run Saturday April 13th
    - Talent Show and Fine Arts at Penn April 19th (New this year!)
    - 2024-2025 Projections: increasing from 27 to 28 gen ed classrooms
    - 37 classrooms total including SPED, gifted, ECSE
    - Staffing for next year- new teachers have been hired; still looking for another 5th grade teacher
* Budget
  + Have enough money, but need staffing to provide tutoring
* General Discussion:
  + Question: Are there other areas PAWS can be helping? Parents sometimes feel like they are standing around and don’t have productive ways to help. How can we improve?
    - More preparation in advance so tasks can be delegated to parents
    - Parent suggested having PAWS spend longer period of time in less rooms so that they have more time to feel like they are actually helping (visit 2 classrooms instead of 4).
  + Question: Is there follow-up if students are invited to participate in Panther Academy and parents either say no or don’t respond?
    - Teacher discretion: some send email if they don’t hear back within a week
    - If students decline or don’t return permission form, other students are invited to take their place
    - It may be beneficial to look into \*why\* some students decline to participate
* Topics for next agenda
* Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM