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