

Penn Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024

In attendance: Dr. Bolles, Erica Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Waseem Sheikh (Vice Chairperson), Missy Gogel (Secretary), Nadine Blot, Abril Harris-Roa, Calayna Lane, Cristina Visagie, Mary Beth McHugh, Theresa Bodie, Adria Cooper, Armando Arvizu, Rachel Latham, Heidi Cruz, Derek Braxton, Dawn LaCour

- Welcome
- Open Forum
- Presentation about the Gifted Education Program (Mary Beth McHugh mchughmb@pwcs.edu)
 - Gifted and talented program (previously called SIGNET or START)
 - Push in lessons / activities with each class – games/puzzles
 - Services provided to students who require enrichment or more rigorous instruction, beyond what can be provided solely by the classroom teacher
 - Development of skills in: critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and conceptual thinking
 - On site services available at every elementary school; minutes per week vary by grade level
 - Identification process
 - Can be referred by parents or teachers, or identified via universal screener
 - Parent permission required
 - Evidence collected (aptitude test scores, academic records, parent and student reports, professional reports, student work samples, etc.)
 - Committee meets to review evidence and make decision
- Budget Update
 - Slightly higher than anticipated
 - Hired 2 additional TA's to support LD teachers, additional cafeteria hostess, .6 additional custodian, 2 additional VALLSS tutors
 - All In Tutoring
- CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan)
 - Focus on improving scores in Science and Math (esp. EL and special education students)
 - Reducing chronic absenteeism
 - Business partners (Potomac River Orthopedists and Dental Office)
- Division Update
- Questions:
 - Why did advisory council meetings increase from 4 per year to 6 this year? Attendance has been limited- will holding more meetings be more productive? Parents may be less willing to commit if it requires more of a time commitment.
 - Intention is to be more transparent and facilitate communication between the school and community
 - Hoping to increase attendance by holding meetings directly before PTO meetings
 - How do we compare to other schools in terms of staffing and funding?

- We currently have a higher budget than anticipated due to the increase in students (sped, EL, etc.), which gives us the opportunity to hire additional staffing (possibly a math specialist, additional tutors, etc.)
 - Chronic absences- can we recognize students who have good attendance?
 - Yes! We will be giving awards for perfect attendance and excellent attendance (no more than 2 absences) during the quarterly awards assemblies.
- Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2025 / 6:00-7:00 PM