

WLA Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

2:00 PM

Effective 5/1/2024

53G-7-1202. School community councils -- Duties -- Composition -- Election procedures and selection of members.

A member appointed to a school community council under Subsection (5)(e)(i) or (ii) shall serve a two-year term.

- (f) (i) If the number of candidates who file for a parent position or school employee position on a school community council is less than or equal to the number of open positions, an election is not required.
- Each of you has expressed an interest in continued service and we had zero candidates to fill vacancies. You are all reappointed. We do need to appoint a new parent to replace Lexi.

Council Members:

1. Elizabeth Henderson: elizabethwatt@gmail.com
2. Kara Reeves: kareeves@gmail.com
3. Sarah Anderson: Sarahjane.anderson7@gmail.com
4. TO BE DETERMINED (Replacing Lexi) (Laura Garlitz?)
5. Leanne Evans
6. Ryan Brown

Guests:

1. Sara Syphus
2. Tessa Lane
- 3.

Agenda items:

1. Welcome
2. Review proposed rules of order
 - a. Voting, need to hold elections
 - b. Who is up for election
 - c. We need to organize our council with chair and co-chair. In the absence of anyone declaring themselves a candidate, volunteers can be appointed.
 - i. LeAnne Evans Chair
 - ii. Kara Reeves Vice-Chair
3. Schedule future meetings:
 - a. October 22, 2024; 2:00 PM
 - b. January 21, 2025; 4:00 PM
 - c. April 22, 2025; 4:00 PM
4. Discuss Data
5. Training video
6. To and from school safely
7. Meeting adjourn

Transcript:

Yeah, I can hear you now. Yup, Garet good to see you here Miss Leanne it's good to see you here and Miss Tessa. Glad you're here. We're just going to probably wait. Just a couple minutes. See for other people to

start. I'm looking for the record button it seems like every time I use, I know I should be better at this but buttons move around on me to do there's record down here. OK yeah so it is our standard operating procedure here at WLA to record our meetings that we use zoom for so will turn that on record to the cloud with that, I think we had notice that we more people would be joining us. I don't know if people forgot given the vacation or where it is, but we're glad you're here. Care of the good thing about being here is if you're at the table, you're not on the menu so Absolutely and so we're grateful for your willingness to participate in the council and serve in that way. Did you have a good fall break while we wait to see if others are going to join us? I don't know Tessa you have anything eventful happened over fall break yeah I'm not hearing you either. Tessa. I'm not sure why Still while she works on that Leanne how was your fall break? Can you hear me? I can't hear you Leanne did you go on any adventures? That's a good one yeah because it's all so they can just run to their hearts content, right Tessa anywhere that's good. That kind of is a destroying thing in a house right if your dogs inside running around with that crashing into things and you've been confined like a little doggy, how was your break? I don't know how to you're good. I only have my phone so I'm on my phone. My break went to Washington state and went to a couple of Beach and beach and twilight stuff so it was fun. Stayed close my two oldest kids aren't at home anymore and my youngest was in Idaho with her grandparents so it was great. I had the run of the house had it all to myself oh you're right here OK and Troy went on camping trip to Wyoming so I stayed with my father-in-law and your father-in-law's well all right well we're at 10 after we're we really not quite 10 after but seven after pretty close so the way this works is, we should have a quorum to conduct business, but we're also up against a deadline to be able to have our first meeting to get stuff kind of resolved and set and on the website so I'm just kind of thinking through a little bit kind of some of the state statute of how to reconcile this. I think I'd probably the safest thing to do would be to go forward with the meeting as it is and then we put the minutes and things like that to the rest of the group and just ask for forgiveness when or if auditors come in there like what happened that's what we say so with that share feature here this is the gender that I think each of you saw that we were going to go over today we can see our council members and we do have one vacancy on the council and that's Lexi. She was a parent from last year, her students are attending a different school. They they're still in a state of Utah, but moved out of the Wasatch area and so that creates a vacancy on the parent side of our council has generally been the state says that we would notice that we noticed it in August no one declared themselves a candidate and so then state statute says that we would appoint someone this is kind of where we get into the ball and told is so generally is how this plays out is kind of a brainstorming session on the council part and then the principal goes and says hey Mr. and Mrs. so-and-so, can we convince you to participate on the community council meet a couple times a year for about an hour, so in the name of brainstorming any ideas on who the council would want to try and recruit from our parents side? I don't know Leanne if you know any parents who come through first grade that you reflect back you're like oh that mom might want to do that or that dad or miss Tessa or Kera so I don't know if you know it's not exactly like a neighborhood brick and School where you think of your neighbor down the road or something like that, any thoughts in that regard my friend Laura Stan comes to mine I think that would be a great thing yeah and Laura remind me the last name the sun was Truman. I think that would be a good place to start. There's no political agenda and who we pick or who we recruit or anything like that so I think if that's someone who's willing to participate let's do that is that are you willing to say that you're willing to reach out to her and extend an initial invitation thank you. Something else that we need to establish our first day council meeting is we need rules of order in the past is what our council has said last year we identified as a rules of order is really pretty simple street straightforward we talk about the election that we give it this way notice in different things like that and then we talked a little bit about some conversation last year. The council wanted to have some kind of provision for removing it council member from office and that mostly was if, just a kind of a member falls into basically inactive status not necessary if there was a controversy or something like that and then, but the council would say hey if you're not gonna participate anymore, can you give us a letter or resignation just kind of as a recordkeeping sort of thing then everyone says we accept that sort of deal then also the state when we look at our rules of order needs to say it talked about if there's a conflict of interest as a council goes through and making different decisions from

time to time and stuff and last year, we left it in here because state statute referenced it but then when we asked for clarification, our district doesn't require that it says Ellie policy by district policy so that's there because the state does ask for it and then we just put it's not really required by our local policy. These two bullet points are really how we go about. Our council is a general rule. First of all we're going to need to decide on a chair and vice chair, chair and coach chair and usually we have someone from the parent side who serves as either the chair device chair and someone from the school who serves is either the chair vice chair, so kind of looking at who is in attendance here you know either someone might want to kind of volunteer for that or going back to if you're not a table you're on the menu. formal the state asks us to codify it, but that's really how we do things. I don't know Leanne you sat on our council a couple years. Is there anything you want to add to that or miss Tessa or Kera? Any thoughts on that representation from the school well Leanne, Leanne's term was up and so in a similar fashion to how we and I just kind of glossed over it you know that her term was up like a parent would be, then with that guy somewhere I sent an email to the faculty hey we need someone to sit on this and no one declared themselves a candidate and so then Leanne said I'm willing to continue to be in this capacity and so it was kind of a similar thing to our conversation there with that vacancy on the parent side of just Kelly and I guess you're willing to do it and so we think I'll get this posted to our website and the other thing with that just looking here on our agenda is before we get into some data conversation looking at some data for our school future meetings so state statute doesn't define how often we need to meet. There is some councils in the state down around medicine hat or different places like that. I'm told that they really only need in person once a year that we don't meet in person ever just given our uniqueness, but it's my understanding that the council here is kind of in the habit of meeting at the start of the year this meeting then somewhere around January meeting and then somewhere around March or April 3 meeting is that the consensus of this group here so I'm going to think this is possibly a little just looking here. I think I've got my email calendar here if we put it to going out and everyone else pull up their calendar January is 2 o'clock in the afternoon work for everyone who's in attendance I'm not sharing, I wonder that everyone just look on your calendars and we'll just talk through this year workday so then would 4 o'clock on Tuesdays work for people? Would that work for your Tessa and Leanne you kind of I'm not sure I'm not trying to read your face there if that works or not all right then in the month of January we've got the 21st would that's Tuesday the 21st if we did 4 o'clock then OK and then if we look at April what about April 22 at 4 o'clock? Does that work for everybody then I'll get that stuff on the website as well and the minutes put out to everybody OK now with that again, looking at our agenda here one of the things that is the council we talk about is data and we've got Jodi McNulty sorry Jodi but we got Jodi here and we appreciate the role that she is. She's a coach assigned to our school she helps and she helps with some of our assessment and so she may help clarify some of the conversation points around data, but we've got a little bit of some information to share just as it in regards to our school and so this is summit of data from last year the conclusion of and I don't know why it's translating will turn close captions off OK is that showing Leanne can you see that or is that black OK? So this is the conclusion of last year this is rise dad and Kera remember from last year some of our conversation around trying to increase participation. This is all the different kind of programming options of WLA so this is our connect students who took the rise test. This is our flex students who took the test and this is also our portfolio students who took the test we ended up really with about 2 1/2% of the students who are eligible to take the test taking the test so we're talking about 2 1/2% one or two kids in a grade level taking the test and doing well or not doing well can really influence the results of the information that comes to us also with it because the state views all students enrolled in WLA as students in the school we have some students who are in portfolio taking the test in their dad is put in together with students who are in connect and the level of access to the educational material can vary widely between a student who is 100% homeschooled but enrolled as a public school student and one who is receiving daily instruction from a certified teacher there can be some variances there so as we look at this, those are some of the factors that we've gotta keep in mind looking at this. This is the school all students there's three content areas that we test and the process a testing we really do everything we can to try and give every student an opportunity to take the test we can't do it through the device and every kid in their house we've looked at for this current year the state is allowing it,

but there's a couple problems that make that problematic as well and so we made a decision to hold off on that and continue our model of having satellite testing centers around the state and that's really a process that Jodi goes through she looks at all our students where the biggest population concentrations are of the students and then balances that with where there might be really dispersed rural students to try and get them and so there's about a five week window when every Tuesday and Wednesday each week for five weeks her and another person are touring around the state setting up these remote testing centers and advertising them trying to get all the students that will come in to test to come in and again it's just a really a lot of uniqueness here but we can see where we're at hovering depending upon the content area and this is third grade to eighth grade dad so we've got science is one of our strong suits. Math is something that we want to improve on what we would want to improve on all of these and then English language arts kind of being in the middle with this break out grade a little bit here and just looking across we can see that you know six grade was a strong spot for us and you can see the variance there but again it's the words down here could be just the two or three kids that ended up taking the test and it could be that the vast majority the other third graders or fourth graders really would've done well one of the uniqueness unique things about our school is just we tend to attract a lot of families who for various reasons are hesitant to participate in the state testing so we look at this we see it and we try to make decisions based on it but it's really kind of a mark times of how much this data helps us because it's so incomplete but this is our English language arts. Then this is our math we can see just even the variances, for example talking about our six grade students across all three of those portfolio flex act and connect where there's 80% were real strong on English language arts in about half of those being strong on the math there so looking at that becomes just conversation points for us as we consider different things. This is science similar information when I look at this I look and see you know like this fifth grade here you know where they were two or three students at this might represent here where they were not really as proficient with English language, arts and math but really solid with science and Riley across the school. It looks like science is one of our strong stronger areas Here would think that has a lot to do with it and I know sometimes technology with English and language because spelling you know learn spelling programs. We learn how to spell the spelling and I know that again it's kind of hard to speak for how things are going in flex direct in portfolio but speaking specifically to the connect side. You know that I see the teachers out there. There's a lot of conversation about instructional strategies materials and waste. Spend a lot of money sending a lot of things home throughout the course of a semester and the particular throughout the course of the year but particular at the quarters Cindy more stuff so they still have manipulative so they still have kind of hands-on experience and trying to limit too much if you reliance on the technology becomes more communication tool and the learning still as I really adore the teachers here because they're still teaching cursive even though we're 100% online virtual school and that when I came to this position, I was like that's incredible So yeah I don't know. Jodi is kind of one of the ones that goes around the state running those satellite testing centers. Do you have any thoughts or insights or observations on the data that you feel comfortable sharing? I just like you said like if we could maybe emphasize how important is to parents and get more participation testing experiences for all the students have always been positive. I have not had any complaints from parents so many like this is a great experience for my student. I'm glad we did this and I just don't know how to get that out more so that we can get, but I know it's not ideal. We would not do all the test in, two days in school so it's not ideal but it's always been a positive experience. I think Troy is come every year. Hasn't he recognized that all day but that was not a problem capable a lot of a lot of them in one day anyways they don't even take two days so yeah, it's always somehow we can get that out and I don't know. Maybe we start earlier in the year teacher of the year talked about fear. This is always something that is pushed at the end of the year. I don't feel at least what I hear and maybe I'm not hearing correctly in the classes, but I do try to, but I feel a lot at least in January and then worked up and pushed a little bit more to give the kids more comfortability and start making more comfortable, but that's to try family families like that could be part of the classroom in general. You know a couple things I appreciate about what you said there you know you say it's not your place but really by sitting on the council that gives you an important voice to share these ideas and so I appreciate you sharing them and I I echo your sentiments. You know when you said testing is a life experience or you said

something of that nature that, you know you're going to have to take the drivers test someday if you're going to drive in this nation, you really can't opt out of that if you're going to and what so many vocations so many occupations so many professions have different licensing and credentialing tests that you just can't get around and even in royal Utah there's a lot of families that engage in different sporting activities out of doors, particularly in the fall and participate in those you know there's different tests that you need to take so I really like what you say about not being a part of life you know and messaging so is it as taking notes as you were talking or even wondering my communication whether it's the newsletter or different things or if we could work a little blurb into our weekly as some assemblies miss Tessa if that could become a kind of a test or test reason kind of infographics with a little hint of the week or something like that that we start sharing one week leading up to and then that becomes kind of our to ever so briefly in announcements to touch on that that might be a way that we could get that out and get it about Christmas and Christmas scene. I don't know we're all the us our team is rising and rising and remembering and Christmas this year. I think it's for excellence and I think it's important to rise and overcome obstacles and I think Brian and Jodi are the ones doing all the hard work and we're so appreciative and his parents were trying to be partners with y'all in this and we're so grateful for y'all and so thank you rising over and over adversity and hard things is part of life to teach children and children learn to be leaders and children so if I can help any of that, I'm here to do thank you. Appreciate that. Appreciate those comments. I guess Leanne Tess we didn't give you a chance to talk on that agenda item. The either of you have anything that you'd like to add or share before we move to the next item, please let me know. I don't have money. I don't have her name right now the wording of our email last year so maybe in January we could have on the agenda to maybe go over a testing email draft and we can go over that parents lens think that's a great idea to put on our January agenda thank you Jodi for thinking of that before we move to the next agenda item anything that you want to say about the data or how we go about that at our school anxiety but I don't think any of those more or more for them to consider OK another agenda item just a touching on right here so annually we're supposed to do a little training that talks about a kind of what is a community council and so this really I think you've all sat through this before so will probably move pretty quick, but it's a good tool just to recap, especially as you're going to go talk to Mrs. Garlitz there Laura about what a community council is kind of what you're signing up for, but there's the idea is to bring together different stakeholders that are concerned about our schools about our students have the parent side to have the school side to work together then there's large amounts of money that are coming in and they did put this into state statute that each school will have a community council but there are parcels of land and we're going to see it in a couple minutes as we go through this PowerPoint across the state that are called School Land Trust and they take that money that's generated. They maybe they lease the mineral rights to it and then different companies can buy those and then the least money goes into a pot and then that is held but it's invested in the dividends from that just continue to grow and when this was first conceptualize, it was really a visionary thing. I don't know it could be way back with the founding of state in 1896 that almost every other section originally was sometimes they'll sell off the actual piece of land if there's not a real interest in it generating money onto itself so they do do some different real estate transactions that way, but basically it comes from those parcels of land leasing of the minor right or sometimes there's a building on them leasing the building and then that revenue is invested and then dispersed to the schools on a purple basis and it is in state statute, but there are always legislators who is that growing pot of money and they're like well then can we take that and put some of it to road or can we take it and do different things then trying to chip away at how it's presently meeting is at work for everybody thank you thank you thank you, Carrol thank you