

Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 14, 2024

Meeting held at DSU Riverfront, 1 South Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 and via Zoom

PUBLIC SESSION

- Helen Anderson chaired and opened the meeting at 6:10 pm
- Welcome, Housekeeping, and Council Roll Call
 - Attendees: Laura Burgos, A’Je English-Wynn, Dorrell Green, Starr Wilson, Helen Anderson, RaShona Brown, and Alex Najemy
 - 8 present – quorum
- Approval of 10/14/24 Minutes – Motion by AJe’ English, Second by Dr. Dorrell Green, vote: unanimous. Minutes approved.
- Acknowledgements
 - WLC Staff: New Senior Administrative Assistant Jessica Ka
- Public Comment: Ms. Empress Bower commented and posed questions and concerns regarding Chill Rooms; WLC will provide more information as the program progresses.
- Executive Director’s Report – L. Burgos:
 - Executive Session completed prior to this meeting
 - Principals presenting on four schools
 - Council Retreat: Two full days of deep learning
 - Effective School Boards presentation AJ Crabill, framework goals outlined; will work with team over next 12 months
 - “Starts with I” message
 - Chill Project
 - Not a breakroom but a health hub–school-based health center led by Nemours Children’s Health
 - Bayard and Pritchett to pilot program, today was first day
 - Fully staffed by health professionals to supply support and mindful practices
 - Furniture ordered, wall designs and art installations later this month
 - AHN visits December 9 and 10
 - January ribbon-cutting ceremony

- DTGSS Learning Walls
 - Deep learning in four schools: Lewis, Mt. Pleasant, Harlan, Warner and Pulaski
 - Science, art and more
- CSD Principal Search for Pritchett and Bayard
 - Alma Advisory Group meeting November 19 and 20, everyone welcome
- Hiring Director of Professional Learning
 - 10 applicants, interviews soon
 - Information on website
- National Symposium for Educator Preparation, Policy and Leadership
 - June 17 and 18, 2024 at Chase Center
 - Local and national interactive professional learning
 - WLC will present
- WLC monthly newsletters, social media presence ramping up
- WLC School Snapshots
 - Harlan Elementary, Tracey Roberts Principal presenting
 - K-5, 326 students
 - 62 staff members
 - ELA up, math proficiency down from 2023
 - 96% of students meet expectations
 - Offers all day summer program
 - Community partners support students as mentors in classrooms
 - Bedtime stories every Thursday via Zoom
 - Created houses to create belonging, academic growth, attendance
 - 5 houses 1 family
 - Earn points/competition between houses
 - Wilmington Lewis Dual Language Elementary Chris Romano Principal presenting
 - Teaches English and Spanish
 - 50% of day is held in each language
 - Only full-immersion public school
 - 347 students
 - K-5
 - ELA up from 2023, math proficiency equal to 2023
 - Stubbs Early Education Center, Andrea Collins-White Principal presenting

- Preschool, pre-K and K from East Side of Wilmington
- 225 students
- Large increase in ELA and math proficiency over 2023-24 year
- Afterschool and summer programs
- Vision is to become a model school
- Bayard School – Tongela Ginyard, Assistant Principal presenting
 - Grade 1-8
 - 75 teachers
 - 576 students
 - Most are significantly below grade level
- Board members thanked presenters for their transparency and willingness to support the Council and offered partnership and help where needed
- Old Business/Updates:
 - Educator Pathway Update by Carly Highsmith
 - Teacher Leader Design Fellows
 - 11 schools – 9 WLC schools and Charters Kuumba and Eastside
 - High levels of engagement, setting goals, etc.
 - Teacher assessment Preparation Program
 - 23 students
 - 6 weeks
 - Supports educators taking PRAXIS and ParaPro exams
 - Will have spring cohort in 2025
 - College Unbound
 - Adult learners with significant barriers to bachelor's degree completion
 - Scholarships and employment opportunities in Wilmington schools
 - No cost to participants
- Committee Formation
 - Form 3 committees: Governance/Steering, Community Engagement, and Finance
 - Discussion held regarding committees
 - Set clear goals and deadlines for accomplishments
 - Dr. Green made motion to establish 3 committees, and table setting goals and deadlines seconded by Rashona Brown; passed with 5 yes, 2 abstained
- Open Committee Seats
 - Filled by Alex Najemy

- Introduction by Dr. Burgos
- Applications being received
- Thanks to Janice McElrath
- New Business:
 - Transcend Contract Part 2
 - Supports teacher leaders and 4 Christina schools
 - Design parameters to retain leaders, principals in future and intentionality about who benefits and parameters
 - Motion to table approval of contract to next meeting
 - Passed 5 yes, 2 abstained
- Adjournment
 - Motion by D. Green to adjourn, seconded by Starr Wilson. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.