

Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 20, 2024

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

PUBLIC SESSION

- Althea Smith-Tucker chaired and opened the meeting at 6:03 pm
- Welcome, Housekeeping, and Council Roll Call
 - Attendees: Laura Burgos, Althea Smith-Tucker, AJe' English-Wynn, Dorrell Green, Lisa Lawson, Starr Wilson, Helen Anderson, Deirdra Joiner, Shanette Graham via phone, Janis McElrath via phone
6 present, 3 absent – quorum
- Public Comment: none.
- Approval of 6/18/24 Minutes – Motion by S. Wilson, Second by Joiner, vote: 8 yes.
Minutes approved.
- Zoom recording started at 6:10 pm
- Executive Director's Report – L. Burgos:
 - Welcome to RaShona Brown, Red Clay Parent Representative as of September, 2024
 - Summer highlights:
 - 7/24 PRAXIS Test Prep; will begin full fall cohort
 - Summer Learning – Reading Assist
 - Grades 1-6 across 4 schools, 90% growth in one of 3 areas; 70% growth in other areas
 - Chronic Absenteeism – 6 month cohort, July – November. Defined as missing 10% of school days for any reason. Site-based Community

Councils with Children and Families First including Dr. Rebecca Lamar and Denise Hughes. Cohesive strategy across 9 schools. Community Councils will join in September.

- WLC Wellness Wednesday – in partnership with the Juice Joint and DE Urban Greens. Monthly series, pilot initiative
- October 12, 2024 at DE Museum of Art, breakfast, lunch and childcare provided. Goal: manage conflict and facilitate ideas
- Welcome new Principal at Stubbs Early Learning Center Mrs. Andrea Collins-White
- Ribbon cutting and block party at Maurice Pritchett on August 23, 2024 from 2 to 5 pm
- Report concluded
 - Question: clarification on Reading Assist metrics/percentage of growth
 - NWF – Nonsense Word Fluency
 - CLS – Clear Letter Sounds
 - WWR – Whole Words Read
- Old Business/Updates:
- 2024-2025 Council Committees – J. McElrath has no access to document, moved to next meeting agenda.
- Effective School Boards Kickoff Retreat:

3 School Districts, originally scheduled for August 23-24. September 6-7 made available by vendor, also November dates available. Conflict with Red Clay District Back to School Block Party on September 7. Held over two consecutive days 9 am to 6 pm, childcare provided. L. Burgos will request firm dates in November from facilitators.

Further discussion: A. Smith-Tucker suggested splitting the days to consecutive Fridays or Saturdays. L. Burgos: -Bound by contract to hold consecutively. Will forfeit if cannot be scheduled. WLC covers travel costs- cost prohibitive if held on separate dates. Green: -Difficulties with attendance in light of new school year.

- New Business:

- Parent Council Representative Update:

Dr. RaShona Brown welcomed as Parent Council Representative for Red Clay.
Red Clay Student Representative: Rahid Flonnory of John Dickenson

- Vote on Council Vice-Chair:

A. English-Wynn and A. Smith-Tucker submitted for nomination

S. Wilson submitted the nomination of A. Smith-Tucker for VC, seconded by A. Smith-Tucker.

Discussion was held regarding tabling votes on VC and Treasurer to September meeting. All council members not in attendance may have insights. President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary positions are also vacant. According to By Laws there is no Secretary position, but one may be appointed. The VC position would finish the current term, ending on June 30, 2025.

A vote was taken to appoint A. Tucker as VC – 6 nay, 2 yea. Motion not carried.

- Vote on Council Treasurer

DOE says a third-party treasurer is required.

Suggestion made by Green to establish an executive committee, to work with L. Burgos to nominate VC and Treasurer. Formal Council training needed. Lawson suggested establishing a list for the role and its responsibilities, term limits – 2 years.

Green: Motion to appoint a nomination committee, second by Lawson; vote: 7 yes, 1 absent, motion carried.

- Vote on 2024-2025 Budget Narratives:

L. Burgos: represents best thinking, WLC with work with DOE for support for Christina SD. Budget Narratives shared with the council via email prior to meeting.

Any amendment would be approved by Council and DOE.

Green made a motion to approve Budget Narratives, seconded by Lawson.

Further discussion: suggested by Smith-Tucker that a repository for contracts and outcomes be started so review by Council members can be done before voting for more specificity on outcomes and how those outcomes affect larger missions.

S. Wilson: Identified about 500 students in contract. Ways to measure outcome with offer, secondary students from around college age. L. Burgos: includes projections from summer programs and feedback to consider going forward.

Direct partnership with schools and existing programs. Goal to ID every block of time to engage students. Reading programs committed to more children in contract that served. Green: offered to invoice more kids, 248 served from Christina SD. Need to be proactive to maximize what students and staff need to align District efforts with WLC efforts to fill gaps in funding. H. Anderson: Why kindergarten not included in summer programs? Challenging to get staff for summer programs for that age group. 3 weeks is insufficient from the childcare perspective of parents.

Continuing Education for Council - \$100,000 contract with effective school Boards, retreat is kick off of yearlong program.

Vote to approve Budget Narratives: 8 yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

- Evaluation of Executive Director's Performance:

A. English-Wynn – motion to table to September meeting, seconded by Green. No further discussion. 8 yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

- Vote on Empower-DSU Proposal:

Committee includes Director of Operations, Dr. Burgos, Director of Educator Pathways. Included 9 WLC schools, increasing support of Christina SD. 5 work streams, recruit and retain teachers, marketing campaign. Discussion: Green: How much is capacity building? Burgos: will act as capacity building and backbone entity. Do more than check-ins. Smith-Tucker – deviation from contract; support for teacher/academic improvement now in this contract.

Concerned where value is without data. Information not in front of the Council to make decisions. Burgos: Contract was in place before Burgos; another vendor would need to be brought up to be updated. Smith-Tucker: Provide contracts for Council review, so no rush to make a decision at a meeting.

Further discussion: None.

- Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by English-Wynn, seconded by Anderson. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.