

Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Meeting held at Stubbs Early Education Center, 1100 N Pine Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 and via Zoom

## Public Session

- Helen Anderson chaired and opened the meeting at 6:08 pm
- Welcome and Housekeeping provided by Helen Anderson
- Council Roll Call was established at executive session provided by Helen Anderson
  - **Attendees:** Helen Anderson, AJe English, Dr. Dorrell Green, RaShona Brown, Dr. Deirdra Joyner, Dr. Lisa Lawson, Alex Najemy, and Mia Elliot joined at 6:08 pm and left the meeting at 6:58 pm. Absent Starr Wilson
  - Approval of 3/13/2025 and 3/18/2025 Minutes - Motion by Dr. Dorrell Green, seconded by Dr. Lisa Lawson . Vote unanimous. Minutes approved.
  - AJe English read statement for Public Comment guidelines
  - **Public Comment:**
    - Celita Cherry, Cofounder of MASK(Mothers Advocating for School Kids) - Ms. Cherry shared her concerns about community voice being included in the process of the principal search for CSD as a parent/community member and community councils. Her concerns addressed transparency and collaboration with families and schools.
    - Allison Santana - Absent
    - Jazmine Upsher - Absent
    - Antoinette Curry, Cofounder of MASK(Mothers Advocating for School Kids) - Ms. Curry shared her concerns about parent voice, participation and decision making. She shared that it is important to let parent's input shape policy and practice because parents bring firsthand knowledge of how policies affect their children and families.
    - Aje English read a letter on behalf of Monica Moriak, Christina School Board member - Ms. Moriaks's letter shared concerns about stability and continuity for CSD school, especially in Wilmington. Also, the city, county and state government should be held accountable for their roles or lack of their roles in

improving the stability and economy of the neighbors. Ms. Moriak is in full support of making fundamental changes necessary to bring improved student outcomes to the families of the city of Wilmington.

- Alisha Simpkins, representative of Mask (Mother Advocating for School Kids)
  - Ms. Simpkins shared her concern regarding transparency, respect and real parent engagement. She also shared that as a parent she wants a seat at the table to be a part of decision making instead of hearing the aftermath.
- **Partnership Updates:**
  - Learning-Focused - Dr. Burgos introduced Principal Tracey Roberts from Harlan Elementary School and Don Marlett from Learning Focus.
    - Harlan's Learning Walks - Principal Tracey Roberts
      - One day on-site leadership training "coaching" sessions
      - Monthly coaching sessions; Staff/ELT meeting presentations
      - School-Wide Instructional Focus Areas:
        - Collaborative Structures
        - Meaningful student discourse
        - Hands-on opportunities
        - Extended writing opportunities
      - Having tough conversations are important
      - Teachers are open to feedback
      - Collaborative pair strategies
      - Writing to raise achievement strategies
    - Dr. Burgos read a statement from Principal Tessa Wallace, Pulaski Early Education Center regarding her experience with the DTGSS Learning Walks.
      - Found the DTGSS Learning Walks to be a powerful tool for refining instructional feedback and action steps.
      - Valuable insight that helps identify areas of strength, determine professional learning priorities and guide targeted coaching for staff.
      - Key component of professional learning system
      - Transformative resource for the Pulaski Staff and school community
    - Don Marlett, DTGSS Learning Walks
      - Evaluation system turned into a coaching system
      - Walks are tailored to be specific to what each school is ready for.

- Goal for working with WLC schools is to improve the amount of outcomes from the efforts that are already inside of their schools.
- Primary focus is too help schools break the mold

**Old Business:**

- **Approval of Principal finalist to be recommended to CSD Board:**
  - Dr. Dorrell Green made a motion to approve the principal finalists to be recommended to Christina School Board, seconded by Alex Najemy. Council voted - 6 Yes, 1 No, 2 absent. Vote approved.
- **Approval of Children & Families First Contract Extension:**
  - Dr. Lisa Lawson made a motion to approve the Children & Families First contract extension, seconded by Alex Najemy. Council voted - 6 yes, 1 abstention, 2 absent. Vote approved.
- **Approval of FY26 Learning-Focused Contract Partnership:**
  - Dr. Lisa Lawson made a motion to approve the FY26 Learning-Focused contract partnership, seconded by Aje English. Vote unanimous. Contract approved.

**New Business:**

- **WLC FY26 Strategy:**
  - **Recommended Plan of Action:**
    - Commitment Year
    - Expanding Educators Pathways
    - Pioneering Teaching Models
    - Empowering ELTs
    - Accelerated Growth of Community Councils
    - Regular School Leader Convening
    - Year-Round Partner Support
    - Strategic Planning Effort
    - Ongoing Pilot Initiatives

**Adjournment**

Motion by AJe English to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Lisa Lawson. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.