



## WHARTON PK-8 DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

900 West Gray • Houston, TX 77019 • 713-535-3771 • <http://www.houstonisd.org/whartondla>

PARENT ♦ ADMINISTRATORS ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ TEACHERS

### SITE BASED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE (SDMC) AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

#### SDMC MINUTES

#### **Start time: 4:27 PM**

1. **Campus Planning and Decision-Making:** The committee discussed roles in campus-level planning, budgeting, curriculum recommendations, staffing, and improving student performance. The School Action Plan was clarified as the School Improvement Plan.
2. **Enrollment and Attendance:** Wharton has a higher enrollment than projected, currently at 717 students. Daily attendance rates are around 98.2%, with ongoing efforts to maintain high attendance.
3. **Key Action Items:**
  - Staff Development: Focus on improving dual language and IB instruction.
  - IEP Management: Ensuring accommodations for special needs students.
  - English Proficiency: Supporting biliteracy for emergent bilingual students.
  - Reading Proficiency: Targeted improvements in reading for grades K-8.
4. **Safety and Behavior Protocols:** Updates included enhancing hallway and cafeteria safety with voice-level guidelines and planning for CHAMPS behavior management to reinforce positive behavior.
5. **Community Engagement:** Magnet tours and school choice fairs are ongoing. Wharton promotes positive community feedback through open communication and a welcoming atmosphere.
6. **Testing and Feedback:** Parents can access testing results via Parent Connect. Suggestions were made to improve communication on school-wide progress.
7. **Staff Retention and Development:** Concerns were raised about turnover and recruitment, particularly for bilingual and special education roles. Efforts include internal recruitment, university partnerships, and attracting quality teachers committed to Wharton's vision.
8. **Parent Communication:** Coffee with the Principal sessions allow for open Q&A and feedback. Topics of interest include IB curriculum details, staff retention, safety protocols, and volunteer opportunities.
9. **Upcoming Events:** Key dates include Coffee with the Principal on November 1, professional development on November 8, Thanksgiving celebrations, and the Storybook Parade on November 1.
10. **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for January 23 to review progress and update on action items.

#### **Feedback/Responses of the Committee**

1. **Action Plan Clarification:**
  - A question was raised about the School Action Plan's relationship with the School Improvement Plan, leading to clarification that the Action Plan effectively serves as the formal SIP for the school.

## **2. Testing Results and Communication:**

- A parent suggested making school-wide testing results accessible to help families understand academic progress across grades. It was agreed that providing holistic grade and school performance data would be helpful.

## **3. Behavior Management and CHAMPS:**

- Parents inquired about school-wide behavior expectations, specifically CHAMPS protocols, and suggested providing documentation to help parents reinforce these at home.
- There was clarification that CHAMPS includes established norms like “Level 0” voice in hallways for safety and minimizing disruptions.

## **4. Volunteer Guidelines:**

- Some parents asked for clear, documented guidelines on visitor and volunteer procedures to enhance clarity and prevent confusion regarding permissible times and activities.

## **5. Teacher Support and Retention:**

- Multiple concerns centered around staff retention, especially for experienced and bilingual teachers, and ideas to maintain morale. The principal noted efforts to attract high-quality candidates, particularly through university partnerships and nurturing talent from within.
- One parent asked how experienced teachers could be recruited alongside newer teachers, emphasizing the importance of balancing experience levels on campus.

## **6. Community Partnerships and Mental Health Services:**

- Attendees discussed mental health partnerships like Hazel Health and Landonte, which provide short-term behavioral and counseling services. Parents were encouraged to make use of these resources for additional student support.

## **7. Safety Protocols and Improvements:**

- Questions arose around safety measures, especially regarding arrival/dismissal adjustments and the use of signage and physical barriers to improve flow and safety.

## **8. Parent Communication Channels:**

- Parents suggested organizing a space for frequently asked questions and priority items, with the SDMC designated as the primary forum for operational concerns like curriculum and staffing.
- It was proposed to create an open agenda item for continuous feedback on school initiatives and other concerns.

## **9. Teacher Development Pipeline:**

- Parents asked how Wharton was ensuring a steady pipeline of qualified teachers. The administration explained that efforts include recruiting assistant teachers interested in transitioning to full-time roles and maintaining a relationship with local universities.

## **10. Feedback on Morale and Instructional Environment:**

- Based on one-on-one meetings with staff, the principal shared that morale was generally positive, though teachers requested stronger support for classroom behavior management and a quieter, uninterrupted instructional environment.

**11. Timeline for Implementation of Behavior Protocols:**

- A parent asked about the timeline for fully implementing CHAMPS and other behavior protocols. The administration clarified that November 8 was the target date for completing development and initiating a school-wide rollout.

**12. Suggestions for PTO Support:**

- A suggestion was made for the PTO to serve as a hub for gathering parent concerns to prioritize key issues for SDMC meetings. Additionally, PTO support was encouraged for community-oriented school initiatives and staff morale efforts.

**Meeting Adjourned: 5:27 PM**