

SDMC | MINUTES

May 20, 2021 | 5:00 – 6:11 PM

| Wheatley High School – Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by Joseph Williams

Type of meeting SDMC

Note taker Carmen Jimenez

Adjournment Eddie Orum

Other Committee Members:

Janice Thomas, President Alumni

Ted Kemp, Alumni

Melodee Thomas, Graduation Coach

Carla Brown, CTE Teacher

Donnie Walker, Teacher

Pauline Johnson, Teacher

Sandra Sanchez, New Teacher Coach

Others joined:

Marie Adams, Associate Principal

Bianca Dugas, Dean of Students

Elena Silva-Leal, 12th Grade Assistant Principal

AGENDA TOPICS

Introduction by Joseph Williams, Principal

Mr. Williams begins to go through some updates, wants to hear what the committee has to say and is very happy they were able to connect as stakeholders about concerns, questions, suggestions. We would like to get some voting and other items that come about from during the discussion.

Mr. Eddie Orem says that the Feeder Pattern Middle School Recruiting event was a success and several of the team members did an excellent job during the scholars around the building tour showing the programs that Wheatley High School has to offer.

Mr. Williams On Monday, Mayor Turner had a press conference that included Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, our Board Trustee Blueford Daniels as well as Dr. Lathan and a special surprise who was Mr. Curtis Jackson a.k.a. 50 Cent who donated \$600,000 to Wheatley, Kashmere and Worthing High Schools. He has a special program which is part of his unity foundation. He's from New York City and moved out to Houston and we're really excited about the program centered around business even though he started as hip-hop. Mr. Curtis Jackson is involved in a lot of things like his water brand, movie director, and he really wants to share those principles to our scholars. He has instant credibility with our scholars. His key passion is helping at risk students in our area. We are blessed to have that type of help in our community.

Agenda:

Secondly, let me share some of the partnerships, one is called CORE Team led by Pastor Clements Baptist Church. He has a team of folks with different departments throughout the city. The Buffalo Bayou is one of the partnerships we know, there's a lot of construction going now east of downtown. One of the endeavors is a golf course for families and the community. It will be affordable and there's also going to be restaurants just around the golf course. Most importantly they are committing to provide a certain percentage of jobs to our Wheatley high school students. I will be meeting with midway construction in a couple of weeks. We are anxious to know what career pathway can be connected so that we can train scholars in those jobs. We have consumer science and culinary arts programs being offered at Phillis Wheatley now, thus we want to do internships and provide jobs opportunities for our scholars. I am excited that this will promote inclusiveness in our community, so all may enjoy the golf course. I don't have any updates regarding the 21st century grant aside from us meeting with UofH downtown and TEA on a conference call last week. We are supposed to get a decision in a few weeks in regards to awarding of grant for Phillis Wheatley and Kashmere and our feeder pattern schools. We're going to do a lot of things extension activities in addition to during the school day or after school and weekends and in the summer. Also, our application for P-TECH Early College High School has been accepted by TEA. We are in the planning year for our early child development program. We also have a meeting with TEA two weeks from now and of course with this grant we have many meetings to come to make sure we are in compliance. I am excited about adding this program where scholars will be offered the same certifications and associates degree as other early college high schools.

My brother's keeper has been working with our scholars for a while. Last year I had one individual housed on our campus and this year we have three and they will focus particularly in the scholars that have attendance, behavior, or academic issues. The idea is to sit at the table and develop a plan to help the scholar be successful is one of the reason we feel this is so important and get ready for next year because we have scholars that are going through so many challenges have lost loved ones so as many support systems we put in place the better. We are working to get the band back on track and have added a theater arts class this year so scholars will have more opportunities. We also have a new head basketball coach next year Mr. David Burrell who is an alum of Phillis Wheatley High School. I trust he will rebuild our basketball program, so it may get it back to the great history heritage at Phillis Wheatley High School. We will do the formal introduction next Wednesday; you guys are invited. Legendary Coach Jackie Carr was a participant in the interview, University of Houston's Alvin Brooks and other alum participated on the interview committee and are invited also to the reception on the 26th.

Attendance rate right now is 89.4% our goal is 90%. However, we are proud of where we are at with the attendance understanding the circumstances with the pandemic. Graduation is in June 12 at 5pm, Barnett Stadium. There is 185 graduation class. Senior prom is tomorrow at 7 PM here at the school.

May 25 is National Honor Society program at 10 AM. Ms. Thomas will be leading. We have College Decision Day at 1 PM where we celebrate scholars who committed to a college. College advisers will be virtual and we're trying to connect with more college advisers from other universities to join in with us. Mr. Johnson, new leader, this year is facilitating a scholar council to offer scholars more voice in decision-making. On June 1 – 4 senior final exam and last week is finals for everyone else and to end the day with field day. Summer school starts June 17 and Ms. Dugas will be the administrator in charge.

Dr. Joseph rejoined. Introduction.

Ms. Stevenson introduction.

Ms. Adams introduction.

Mr. Williams says before opening is there any questions?

Ms. Dugas thanking alumni for the contribution.

Ms. Janice Thomas commenting about senior shout outs.

Ms. Elena SilvaLeal introduction.

Mr. Joseph Williams continues. We had almost 90 percent taking TELPAS test really says something about the rapport Ms. SilvaLeal (LPAC Chairperson) has with our scholars. Scholars did their best. Mr. Kemp shared a question with me and will share in case someone has more information. It's been 2 years that we are unable to show TEA that our scholars are doing well. We are confident we would have met state standards, but due to Covid we have been forced to remain in same standing with TEA. Hopefully things go back to normal soon. The board is working to remain independent and making sure state doesn't take over, however the state still has a say so due to House Bill 1842. My focus is to keep my staff concentrated on scholar progress and achievement, and we are confident all will fall in place for Phillis Wheatley and HISD.

Ms. Janice Thomas mentions the work still has to be done no matter who is the superintendent. Wheatley has done a lot and it's about the children. Preparing them for the future. Wheatley has been awesome!

Mr. Kemp adds that Wheatley has done a tremendous job. The four young men he serves are great kids. They are smart and commend Wheatley for doing a great job for the scholars and continue to do so.

Mr. Joseph Williams turns it over to Ms. Silvaleal but asks any more questions?

Ms. Silvaleal begins to talk about the courses. We want our students to have the opportunity next school to learn about African American and Mexican American studies. As its currently being written it is a year course and working closing with the curriculum department so that we can offer it per semester. We want to build the program, the idea to understand what American History really is. The syllabus laid out year out course it starts African American to come into the American. I shared it with curriculum so we can maintain that integrity. At this point is an elective course and make sure students understand that it will help with their writing comprehension and literacy, all the skills they need to apply in other areas. We are partnering with University of Houston and Rice University and UCLA, to contribute the development of these courses and to help our teachers. Teachers will have a week long symposium where they will learn about these courses. Most importantly is that these courses are credited to our students and understand how to make the mark in history and politically. Teacher certification is required.

Mr. Joseph Williams has asked if there are any questions? I would like to point out in reference to these courses, we are fortunate that we have 2 strong leaders such as Ms. Silvaleal who is passionate in this subject and used to be a lead teacher development specialist in the district curriculum department as well as Ms. Yarbrough our lead history teacher. They are doing their due diligence of staying abreast of latest updates regarding these courses. Certain courses we cannot talk race subjects not getting into political, but these courses will share facts and spark discussions to make a better community especially what we currently going through in our nation. If there are no comments, we will turn it over to Mr Orem for motion.

Mr. Orem proceeds with his motion. He mentions this conversation is important and for our students know the background of our country. Has asked any other questions or comments? He states: "Someone put forth in motion?" Mr. Joseph Williams motions these courses be in place next school year. Second motion by Ms. Marie Adams. Secretary gives us the official count. All those in favor to raise hands. (9 in favor)

Any nays? (0 nay) No hands raised.

Neutral – Carmen Jimenez, Secretary

Motion

Second

In Favor

Joseph Williams, Principal

Marie Adams, Associate Principal

Pauline Johnson, Teacher

Melodee Thomas, Grad Coach

Ted Kemp, Alumni

Carla Brown, CTE Teacher

Sandra Sanchez, New Teacher coach

Elena SilvaLeal, 12th GR. Asst. Principal

Eddie Orum, Former Principal

Mr. Orem concludes by all means site-based decision has voted and in motion and asking that these two courses be offered in the curriculum at Phillis Wheatley High School.

Meeting Adjourned