

SDMC | MINUTES

April 19, 2022, | 4:30 – 5:30 PM | Wheatley High School – Library

Meeting called by	Joseph Williams	Other Committee Members:
Type of meeting	SDMC	Janice Thomas, President Alumni (<i>online Zoom</i>)
Note taker	Carmen Jimenez	Melodee Thomas, Graduation Coach
Adjournment	Eddie Orem	Carla Brown, CTE Teacher
Attendees:		Donnie Walker, Teacher
Sandra Sanchez, New Teacher Coach		Pauline Johnson, Teacher
Anthony Madrid, Teacher		Dr. Youletta McCullough (<i>online Zoom</i>)
Michael Simmons, Assistant Principal		
Bianca Dugas, Assistant Principal		
Tammy Russell, Teacher Specialist		

4:46 PM - SDMC minutes from December 14, 2021

- Motion to move – Eddie Orem
- Motioned – Tammy Russell
- 2nd motion – Pauline Johnson
- Motion passes voting to yes – Eddie Orem

Roundtable Introduction

Mr. Joseph Williams – opens with drops and celebrations. Ms. Brianna Edwards won the Teacher of the Year! Ms. Edwards is a culinary arts teacher who worked really hard with her students. Her class also participates in skills competition and have done an excellent job! The culinary arts students are in high demand as Atherton has asked if they are able to do a job. Kudos to her! Ms. Tammy Russell who is the Testing Coordinator also did a magnificent job organizing the English 1 and II tests. Students and teachers worked hard and took their time on the test. It made it a smooth week of testing. Coming up we will have Algebra, Biology and US History tests so we are having boot camp on Saturdays for students to come and be tutored. There are lots of opportunities for our students to have extra instruction.

Flyer of Non-Profit Organizations – As a member of the East River Community Council, I wanted to share about a grant opportunity. There is a grant application to whom lives in the Fifth Ward Community, this is a great opportunity for the community. This is an opportunity to help improve the community. The application has been sent to more than 20 community organizations, but let me know if there is an organization you would like me to send to. There is a QR code on the flyer to use for more detailed information. I just wanted to share with you so the word can be spread that there is a 75k grant money to be awarded. If you need the name of the contact person let me know so you can get more information.

I am excited to announce that we will become Early College HS and we are in the planning phase. We really want our Phillis Wheatley students to stay here. Right now, our focus is in recruiting and identifying teachers to receive professional development. It's going to focus on early childhood and will provide us a daycare that will also be available for the community. It will increase our enrollment and give our scholars an opportunity to receive certification or to have a pathway in pursuing a degree in that area. I'll turn it over to Ms. Melodee Thomas talk more about this program.

Ms. Melodee Thomas the P-Tech program has 3 strands: 1.) Focusing on education 2.) Focus on early childhood and 3.) Workforce certification. She continues to explain the strands about this program that is available for our students. Wheatley students will be able to earn an associate degree in education with work force education. These courses are funded from HCC and classes are free.

Mr. Eddie Orem asks if all strands be applicable?

Ms. Melodee Thomas replies the strands are there if the students decide to pursue a degree or a certification.

Ms. Janice Thomas states that she is concern of all deadlines and if the program when it's launched that it will also continue to stay. If all protocols are in place to be ready to begin in August.

Ms. Melodee Thomas mentions that main focus right now is recruitment. This is for 9th grade and will participate in their own strand. Although students will continue to meet their graduation requirements. Students will not be able to enroll in college courses until main goals are met. It will be another year for the facility to be built and so in the meantime, we will work with our business partners as we manage the age groups and slots for our students, teachers, and the community.

Mr. Joseph Williams says that we are still working on building permits, one of the biggest issues is the plumbing then hopefully by the summer this can be fixed.

Mr. Eddie Orem agrees that one year is sufficient time to complete.

Mr. Joseph Williams asks if there are any other additional questions on East River? (*none*)

Next, I want to talk about the Rise Transformation Cohort, let me share some information that close to 20 schools are in this cohort. We belong in the Rise Strong initiative which consists of 1 elementary school, 1 middle school and 1 high school and we are the high school in the Rise Strong. We will get resources and get support personnel. The goal is to hire the best staff members here at Wheatley High School. All staff members will re-apply and interview. They will look at the data and if not selected, HISD, will reassign to another campus. This summer we will receive lots of professional development for the RISE program and will be led by Dr. Campbell. She was the ex-principal from Worthing High School and now she is the Assistant Superintendent that will keep us updated. Are there any questions?

Dr. Youletta McCullough says at this time no questions as she will digest all this new information.

Ms. Janice Thomas also says no questions right now.

Mr. Eddie Orem says that alumni and community can be a support if need be and asked what can we do as a non-profit organization?

Mr. Joseph Williams answers by saying that Superintendent House has a big community involvement and has conducted town hall meetings through out the district area, to develop a strategic plan and he trusts that he will continue with this community involvement.

Ms. Sandra Sanchez asks if the stipend teachers and staff will receive of \$10,000 include required professional development.

Ms. Bianca Dugas says that will be outside

Mr. Joseph Williams says that that will consider extended pay for teachers. If teachers are expected to get paid for the professional development, this I will get clarity from Dr. Campbell. But teachers have the open transfer now and some have already done so. Any other questions? (*none*)

Next, I will go into Resource allocation review. As you can see the district is being transparent as to where all the allocations will go in. Federal Government provided funds as we look at the chart provided, special funds we will receive as being a Rise Strong School. If you notice the summary of the total funding, you can see we will get more and we will use some title I funds to pay salaries. In our next meeting I will be clear of what we will have as I get more updates from the RISE PROGRAM and not our school budget. Main part of the next meeting what I want to hear from you members is where should we allocate these funds?

As far as old business: 1.) no decisions made for metal detectors 2.) HISD 2022-2023 Calendar has been approved.

Ms. Bianca Dugas asks about the positions, what is the total amount administrators will receive?

Mr. Joseph Williams commented that the big push now is teacher salary increase, but did share about stipend for administrators in RISE program.

Ms. Bianca Dugas needs clarification on allocations. Only 2 AP's here at Wheatley or will there be additional?

Mr. Joseph Williams replies that these positions will be paid by Rise with the additional support, however two other administrator positions will be paid out of regular school budget. Any more questions?

Dr. Youletta McCullough asks if there is a flexibility to add or merge positions can it or it cannot be done? Based on the information, is there a comparison with different positions with the extra money?

Mr. Joseph Williams replies that not for the moment but looking forward to next meeting to go over more information and hope to get final answers with HR and the Rise program.

Dr. Youletta McCullough emphasis to get ideas of how money is spent.

Mr. Joseph Williams says that he will be retrieving notes and collect items that we need since we are priority, they try best to please to our requests.

Ms. Janice Thomas asks what is his feel this far? Do you have the group you need?

Mr. Joseph Williams replies that he will get additional feedback as far as staffing such as testing coordinator and counselors, what will be the expectations because most occupy so much time away from students due to testing preparations. Also referring not only 2 additional personnel but programs to expand or add so please feel open to share your thoughts as I will write on the chart.

----- principal has shared the notes on the chart via email -----

Mr. Eddie Orem shares to look at the funds for title I assessments are written in academic language, the speech standard to assess bilingual to gain academic language skills because may not understand the tests. Same test for bilinguals can be used for title 1 students as there are many countries with language differences. Understanding the native language speaker's culture.

Dr. Youletta McCullough reminded the committee that we need to consider all testers for these assessments understanding that even in the Spanish language there are differences.

Ms Sandra Sanchez mentions the need after school program for scholars in need of help with the language barriers. Also, to instill motivation to all scholars.

Ms. Bianca Dugas says that Dr. Walker focus with the English speakers to speak Spanish as well

Ms. Tammy Russell says that teachers must transfer motivation to students.

Ms. Pauline Johnson says that in starts with parent involvement and help the students to be in school.

Ms. Janice Thomas emphasis is to be cautious on what type of programs are to be used and what will they provide.

Dr. Youletta McCullough advice to have parent liaison to be responsible with parent and teacher behavior and community engagement.

Ms. Bianca Dugas suggests meeting with the feeder pattern schools such as PTO and be consistent to engage until we foster high school PTO program.

Ms. Sandra Sanchez commented to have a house system in place.

Ms. Pauline Johnsons commented to have a driver's ed program.

Mr. Joseph Williams asks if there are any more questions, thoughts, or ideas so that we can adjourn meeting?

Mr. Eddie Orem moves for motion to close

Motion to close by Bianca Dugas

2nd motion by Sandra Sanchez

All in favor: Joseph Williams, Melodee Thomas, Anthony Madrid, Pauline Johnson, Melodee Thomas, Carla Brown

Against: None

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.



Phillis Wheatley High School

SDMC Input for Resource Allocations

April 19, 2022

- **Academic Language Assessment for all scholars-** although we certainly feel that this assessment can help to identify gaps and determine language proficiency for our emerging bilingual scholars, it was suggested tonight that this assessment could benefit all scholars including native

English speakers. The argument was made that it could help to identify specifically the academic language proficiency of all of our scholars and will help us to address their deficiencies. It was pointed out that this is a reason our scholars struggle with the test as their academic language proficiency is weak. Similar to an emerging bilingual scholar who may grasp BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills), it is critical that they also grasp the CALPS (Cognitive Academic Language Skills) which will help them excel in their academics. Thus, it was suggested we explore administering this assessment for all scholars and more importantly incorporate/integrate those best practices of scaffolding, use of visuals, etc. as we do with our emerging bilingual scholars.

- **Addressing all emerging bilingual scholars-** it was emphasized that we have immigrant scholars from all over the world and thus we must be mindful in serving each of them appropriately. (although Spanish speaking may have variations in how Spanish is spoken)
- **Afterschool program for our emerging bilingual scholars to learn English.** Although they are receiving ESL and sheltered instruction in the classroom, there is no bilingual program in secondary school and thus the idea of an afterschool program to help them acquire the English language.
- **Native English speakers to learn Spanish.** A bilingual program for scholars and teachers.
- **Programs to intrinsically motivate scholars.** It was shared that we provide a lot of extrinsic rewards to motivate scholars, but we discussed how could we build up their intrinsic motivation, so they will have it in themselves to work to their potential. Teacher training was discussed to help build this in scholars, but after much discussion it was concluded that this starts with character education. It was suggested that we explore a program such as what Booker T. Washington has in Stephen Covey's Leader in Me or something comparable to that to build character education in our scholars.
- **Ideas to increase parental involvement.** It was suggested that we continue to staff a parent liaison that works specifically with parents as the wraparound specialists have several tasks they are responsible for.
- **Support for strengthening the feeder pattern-** this will help to increase parental involvement in the high school, but support so many other great practices such as vertical alignment across grade levels in pedagogy, programs, etc. For example, it was mentioned Fleming has a full auto shop, but it is not being used, so our AutoTech teachers can go there and work with middle school scholars to help with recruiting and get a head start.
- **Laptop Carts-** It was suggested that although we are appreciative that we have the PowerUp Initiative and scholars have a laptop for themselves, it would benefit our school if we had some laptop carts available for scholars who forget laptop, lost it, etc. A laptop can be checked out to them by the teacher and returned at end of class period. This way there is no opt out for getting their work completed and being engaged in the lesson.

- **More activities to increase school spirit.** The House System was suggested for competitive purposes between houses.
- **Driver's Ed Program** to be used to motivate scholars, but also help them to obtain their driver's license.

Mr. Williams