

Green Street School Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

The Green Street School Leadership Council met on Monday, October 30th at 6pm in the Green Street School Library. A video call link was also made available on Google Meet. This was the first meeting for the Leadership Council of the 2023-24 school year.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Christina H. at 6:06 pm. LC members Kate M. and Lauren B. were in attendance.

The first order of business was setting a schedule in place for monthly meetings. It was determined that 3rd Mondays are the best workaround for school board meeting schedules and to accommodate the PTO. January and February dates occur on holidays, some dates TBD.

November	Monday, 20th
December	Monday, 18th
January	Monday, 15th (MLK Jr. Day, no school)
February	Monday 19th (President's Day, no school)
March	Monday, 18th
April	Monday, 15th
May	Monday, 20th
June	TBD

School updates include staffing priorities and structural updates to the landscape and playground. There are 2 positions to fill, both are para positions. The playground is due for some sensory updates and percussion pieces to make the playground interesting for all grade levels. The plans are not fully developed, and the budget for the project is not ready to present since this still remains a goal and is not yet underway.

Recess has been broken into different blocks that pair big kids with their little kid buddies. 6th grade has its own recess block, giving them the playground to themselves. A behavior intervention being implemented in 2023-24 will help students regulate behaviors during unstructured recess times. This is called "Structured Recess". If a student is referred by a teacher or para because of dysregulated behavior they will enter into a recess designed as a rehabilitation intervention. The referred student will spend several recess periods working on their developing social skills and behaviors, earning back the traditional recess period in stages.

District goals for all WSESD schools have been determined by the school board for the 2023-24 student year. Using the benchmarks from standard testing, the school board wants to increase the amount of students reaching standardized literacy benchmarks by 10%. There are three benchmarks measured

through the school year. There is a second benchmark test in February, and a third in spring. The literacy benchmark will inform the board on the overall progress the district is making in reaching their goal. The school board is also seeking to increase the high school graduation rate to 87%. There was a clarifying conversation about these goals.

One question arose regarding math standards and why literacy is a focal point. The answer is that if children don't improve their literacy they cannot improve their math skills in word problems. Literacy is a foundation for math. The standard math scores for students are not so high that math is not considered in the district's goals.

Another question was asked about the current graduation rate and how much of an increase 87% is over the current rate. The information was unavailable, but may be a good question for a school board representative.

Open discussion and comments raised a few concerns. One is the impacts of Policy E. 11 regarding food offered outside of school's hours, at special events, or for student birthday celebrations. The policy aims to keep sugar and soda out of school supported functions. However, stakeholders raised issues around food shaming, inequality, and barriers that will prevent families from participating in bake sales or birthday celebrations if all items must be store purchased and meet rigorous guidelines. Food is more than calories, food is cultural, it's familial, and it's financial.

Another barrier to parent participation at the elementary school level is background checks. The criminal background checks need to be performed each year, which is confusing for parents who did the full process a winter (not a full year) prior. Parents who do want to complete the background checks do not know how to do so, or how to pay for it.