

# Tacoma Public Schools

## Head Start Policy Council



### Policy Council Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2021

*Due to Covid-19, all Head Start Policy Council meetings for the 21-22 school year will be virtual.*

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**Meeting called to order at 11:03 a.m.**

**Roll Call** - The following sites were represented at the meeting:

*16 sites with elected members, 13 sites in attendance – 81% of the sites represented.*

- Birney (Rep)
- Downing (Alt.)
- Edison (M.A.L., Rep.)
- Franklin (Rep.)
- Geiger (Alt.)
- Jefferson (Rep.)
- Larchmont (Rep.)
- Madison (Chair)
- Manitou (Alt.)
- Mann (Rep.)
- McCarver (Rep.)
- Roosevelt (Rep.)
- Willard (Vice Chair, Alt)

#### **Director's Report**

The program will have an opening for an Assistant A position at Lister starting in January. There are Assistant B positions open at McCarver and Geiger. Interviews may be conducted during the break. If you want to be part of the interview team, please email Karen Thompson.

Two classrooms switched to remote learning for 10 days due to close contact with a positive covid case. These classrooms were Bay Terrace and Madison. The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department quarantine timeline for all preschool/childcare children identified as a close contact has changed back to 14 days. This is a change from the 10-day quarantine for close contacts. This change is for preschool only. Preschool students are not able to do the Covid-19 test to return prior to the end of the 14-day quarantine.

A new provision to the Program Performance Standards has been added regarding masking and vaccinations. All individuals, two years of age and older, with noted exceptions, all Head Start staff, contractors whose activities involve contact with or providing direct services to children and families, and volunteers working in classrooms or directly with children, must wear a mask and be vaccinated for Covid-19 by January 31, 2022.

#### **Budget Report**

The district implemented a new accounting software system. Reports and budget numbers will be available at the next meeting. The close-out of the last fiscal year shows approximately \$250,000 left unspent (due to staffing) out of \$5.4 million. With staff back in the building full time this year, this shouldn't be an issue for the current fiscal year.

The program's grant cycle now matches the district's. The fiscal year is Sept. 1 – Aug. 31.

A credit card report showing all purchases made November 1-30 was included in the handout packet. There were no questions regarding purchases.

#### **Component Reports**

**Education:** Parents should have been invited to join the classroom Teams. Teams is used for remote learning. Invites were sent out in case a classroom had to switch from in-person to remote. For those parents who did not receive an invitation, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher. Parents should have received an invite for TS Cloud as well.

**Health:** Information about screenings was shared with parents during partnership goal setting. Advocates will be following up on referrals for vision and hearing. Advocates will also be focused on encouraging families to schedule and complete well child and dental exams. Quarantine time has changed for preschool students only. It is back to 14 days for close contact. The longer timeline is due to preschool children having a difficult time social distancing. It's still a 10-day timeline for older children.

**Family:** Be sure to check the newsletter for program updates. The district will start allowing some in-person volunteering. For parents interested in volunteering, the advocate will go through the volunteer process with you. It requires a TB questionnaire, background check, and volunteer training. Volunteering will only be allowed if the building principal agrees and if there is space in the classroom. Due to Covid, only 25 people are allowed in the classroom (students, staff, and volunteers). There will be more information on volunteering after winter break.

### **Executive Board Elections**

The Representative from Manitou agreed to take on the WSA of Head Start and ECEAP position on Executive Board, replacing the Representative from Mann.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.**