

School Council Meeting Minutes

Lindley Middle School

December 6, 2017

Present: Dr. Dana Giles, Melanie Allen, Njeri Fulwood, Martha Williams, & Josephine Waldron

Call to Order

Chairperson Waldron called the meeting to order at 8:09am

Pledge of Allegiance

Waldron led the pledge of allegiance

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Waldron asked for any changes to the agenda. No changes added. The Agenda and Minutes were approved.

Report of the Principal

Dr. Giles started by stating that we have had a great Semester 1 as we are closing out 2017 she wanted to share some highlights:

18 Week Challenge Information was sent out to teachers and parents. We want everyone to be intentional with all of their actions as we close out 1st Semester.

18 Days to Change

The "age of majority" is the age at which a child legally becomes an adult. Where this line is drawn varies from country to country and even from state to state, but in the USA, it happens at the age of 18. This concept of "age of majority" is very interesting because ultimately the law makes certain assumptions about a child's ability (regardless of past experiences, upbringing or current circumstances) to be responsible for their own actions. As adults, each of us can remember our 18th birthday and how it impacted our own life as we made this pivotal transition. The point of this commentary is not for you to become nostalgic about turning 18, but to connect to the emotion of transition and change that is associated with this milestone.

Eighteen is significant for us all because that is exactly how many days we have left in 2017 to provide meaningful learning experiences for our students, to address standards still yet to be mastered, to remediate for those who are still struggling, and advance those who need the extra push. Eighteen, as in life, has to be a significant line of demarcation for you as you seek to ensure that your students are ready and prepared to move into the last leg of learning in 2018. What can you do in 18 days? A WHOLE LOT! So today, I offer you the 18-day challenge. You have 18 days to make an impact, an investment, and a change. Here is what I challenge all of us to do.

1. Call 18 parents of students who are struggling academically and offer suggestions to support.
2. Call 18 parents of students who are showing great gains in academics and behavior and offer your congratulations.
3. Give out 18 Falcon Bucks to students for both behavior and academics gains.
4. Be present and on time to work for the next 18 days.

5. For 18 days, start each class period with a positive affirmation for students.
6. For 18 days try one new or modify one current instructional strategy.

For the next 18 days, I challenge each of us to embrace the concept that 18 signifies change, growth, and newness and allow this to inspire you to close 2017 strong and renewed.

- PBIS Initiative – PBIS Day – Students were able to use bucks to purchase treats and attend a movie in the theater; we collected over \$27K worth of bucks! Our students are earning bucks and our teachers are distributing the bucks. In addition, all of our 1st Quarter honorees were able to enter this event as a VIP.
- The graph from the Discipline Dashboard was reviewed. Williams asked if level three offenses were the highest level. Waldron asked about the PBIS acronym – Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. Dr. G explained how students are rewarded based on the tenets of the Falcon 5. She also stated that we need to find ways to reward students who always do the right thing.
- Dr. G reviewed the calendar of guest speakers and confirmed the upcoming dates. Dr. Kattoula is the guru of school data and will assist us with identifying our challenges and opportunities. Susan Thayer represents our School Board. Waldron asked how beneficial would this visit be? Dr. G shared that Mrs. Thayer does not want to impose; she would prefer if we let her know when she is needed.
- Next semester will be very quick with the many breaks and holidays. March will be our longest month of school. We are preparing our students the best we can.
- **Dates for Future School Council Meetings**
 - January 19, 2018 at 8:00 am
 - February 7, 2018 at 8:00 am
 - March 7, 2018 at 8:00 am
 - Suggestion made to consider flexible meeting times for future discussion
- **New Business Topics**
- The Council would like to increase our Spanish parental involvement by getting more parents to come out. Dr. G stated that our parental involvement is not nearly what we want it to be. Waldron agreed to assist with the messaging in Spanish for our text, email and calling system. Waldron assisted with the Coat message that went out earlier during the month.
- Waldron inquired about doing a school fundraiser to help with funeral expenses for the Crossing Guard that was killed last week. Dr. G stated that she has been in contact with the family and that information can be found on our website and that per the family,

everything is covered. Waldron then suggested that we work on a Memorial by doing a dress down day to would support funding signage in her memory to get everyone to slow down on the main road that our school sits on. Allen suggested that we get input from the family before we do anything in Ms. Umeh's honor.

- Waldron asked if we could still work on a project as a Council for MLK or Black History Month like a day of service/community event. Suggestions included: Cleaning the school, Linking our event with Earth Day 4/22/18, Open it to other school groups, recycling, or STEM
- Williams asked about our plans for Black History Month and offered her collection of artifacts to be used in a living museum. Other suggestions were daily information on the school news and taking the students to see Marshall the movie or playing in the theater for them
- Williams shared information with the group about her program called Turn-A-Round; Anger management and education services
- Fulwood asked about linking the reward system with LMS 6th Academy
- Dr. G shared that she received an award for Lindley from the Leadership and Learning to honor our PBIS Program as emerging
- **Open Discussion**
 - Waldron asked about the kitchen classroom and how it is used. She also inquired about the connections curriculum and which classes are we offering in January. Dr. G shared that our media specialist Mrs. Coaxum will be teaching a connections class in Technology. Fulwood shared about the 2017 Giving Tree Campaign. Dr. G shared with the group that they are part of an advisory board and asked them to speak with their neighbors that they have a direct link to the Principal and that they can bring back information to the Council. She asked them to "Beat the Pavement"

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the School Council, Waldron adjourned the meeting at 9:26am.