

Arcado Elementary School Council Meeting

September 28, 2023

Attendees: Dr. Paula Thompson, Rebecca Ruegsegger, Hope Boyd, Harish Patel, Rachel Ulrich, Allison Koski, Adrienne Simmons, Thang Pham, Ghanshyam Patel, Sophia Jetpuri Naviwala,

Summary Notes:

The School Council met at 7:30 in the morning and was attended by 11 stakeholders that included Council Members, parents, and Principal and staff.

Warm Welcome

The meeting began with a warm welcome from Dr. Thompson and by viewing a video that captured the amazing students at Arcado previously leveraged in recruitment for Arcado.

What's New at Arcado?

Dr. Thompson shared how she was able to hire an additional Assistant Principal for this year. She introduced Rebecca Ruegsegger and explained the change in role for Nicole Trimble from teacher to Assistant Principal. In addition she explained that all Assistant Principals are strong and highly skilled curriculum leaders.

State of Arcado

Arcado had 77 students under projected enrollment which led to the displacement of 3 staff; ESOL, Kindergarten, and 2nd Grade teachers. Demographics were reviewed and an explanation of the free and reduced lunch was explained. In addition it was shared how this F&R lunch impacts the Federal Government allocation of Title I funds. Simmons shared that the two Blue Ribbon School winners for the State of Georgia were from Title I schools.

School Council Training

The School Council went through a broad overview of district school council

training. The complete training slide deck is available to parents on the Arcado website. Dr. Thompson shared that she uses the data from parents to assist her in how she leads the staff. There was a focus on slides: 4, 7, 9, 16, 19. The group was asked the following question and there was a discussion:

- **What are some ways school council members can communicate with the community?**
 - Naviwala shared that there are Facebook groups that communicate information, Parents may like to know the new information
 - Suggestion that Paula may need to introduce AP's so parents know who they are at upcoming Movie Night
 - Thompson shared some limitations of Panda Post due to tool used for communication
 - Parent shared that going from Classdojo to Parent Square the app is harder, she also shared that the system is hard and stressful, parents work, parent would like a text message since they come regularly,
 - PIC needs to ask LSTC to make a video of How to navigate Parent Square and How to set notifications for Parent Square, The video needs to be placed on the website
 - At movie night- Paula/LSTC walk them through how to download Parent Square at the beginning of the event
 - Newsletters go home each Monday by Parent Square, there is no paper copy
 - Thompson wants the purpose of School Council to be an action item
 - We need to send a paper copy reminder of Parent Council meeting in Monday folders
 - It was suggested that we have a QR code
 - **School council seats were nominated and elected:**
 - Chair - Sophia Jetpuri Naviwala
 - Vice Chair- Rachel Ulrich
 - Secretary- Hope Boyd

Academic Press

Milestones data was looked at. There was discussion that included how MTSS looks at data and that there is a need for vocabulary to be a target focus. There

was discussion around how the new EL program is rich in vocabulary. Naviwala shared that we looked at this last year and many changes were made and that it is good to see the increase in 3rd and 4th math scores. It was shared that this is a testament to how things have been restructured and it's working. Thompson shared that the departmentalizing with teachers in 4th and 5th will hopefully support the forward progress for future data.

- Naviwala asked - Can we revisit the 5th math to see how that is going in a couple of months?

Supportive Community

There are 3 initiatives being implemented that include the following:

- Student Leadership Opportunities: Ambassador, Safety Patrol, Principal's Advisory, Student Council
- Clubs have begun- Parent shared Girls on the Run is a great opportunity but Dr. Thompson explained that we want to make sure boys can come. Another suggestion was Kilometer Kids. It may need to be considered for enrollment as a way to compete that is free
- Odyssey of the Mind was explained by a parent.

Closing

Meeting was adjourned.

Additional Notes:

Naviwala- made suggestions of possible partnerships that PIC can consider:

- Code Ninja's club
- Chess for Champs
- Championship Chess
- Clubs may be willing to run
- Nothing Bundt Cakes- Tucker-Charlie
- FireHouse Subs- cards
- Killian Hill Christian Academy
- Send letter Naviwala

Discussion on Reading and Vocabulary

- Simmons asked how parents can support at home with vocabulary and shared the importance of read alouds at home.
- There was discussion on whether we can get businesses to support the

purchase of books. There was a suggestion to use Half Priced Books or do a book swap

- Can the Read Aloud book videos from pandemics be shared again?
- Partnership for Public Library to come - See if they can come to at least 2-3 nights
- Thompson- shared that there is not a homework component to EL and we are going to do it with fidelity until January, tweaks will be made in January, teachers that did it last year are good to go
- Teacher shared how the EL program looks