

DRAFT

MLK School Advisory Council
October 22, 2024

Participants

Gerald Yung, Principal
Martha Schloming, Parent Co-Chair
Sarah Carpenter, Teacher
Jennifer Orr, Teacher
Lucy Alekseyev, Teacher
Laura PayackTeacher
Marguerite Hicks-Gyewu, Family Liaison
Gina Gerard, Parent
Jay Dave, Parent
Brian Claggett, Parent

Non-Members

Hannah Wirtshafter
Max Jordan, Parent
Jordan Lin, Parent
Zhigiang Fang, Parent
Kim Mott, Parent
Marzayah Ghassemi, Parent
Julie McAweeney, Parent
Josh, Parent
Molly, Parent
Dongmei, Parent
Cathy Chu
David Yarmolinsky
R Annetta Zhou
Shang
Ellie Chen
Nina Sutjiawan
Yang Li

Minutes

Meeting started at 8:02AM, held at MLK school in person as well as online via Zoom.
What is School Council

Icebreaker: "First job?"

Review of Norms and edits

- Feedback about consensus norm being too long- eliminate norm
- Eliminate "agree to disagree" as redundant

Expanded Learning Time

- Continuance of longer school day is subject to the district budgetary limitation and strategic implications
- Teachers have shared input
- Question about what happens if the district doesn't have the budget- can the school pick it up from their budget?
- Decision is made by Superintendent and School committee with input from community
- Feedback shared with Superintendent (and leadership team)

History and original purpose of ELT:

- Started in 2006 and funding ended in 2023
- Original goal was to improve academic performance by adding 300 hours (from slides)
 - Provide more instructional time in math, literacy, science, and other core subjects to enable students to meet state standards;
 - Integrate enrichment and applied learning opportunities into the school day that complement and align with state standards and 21st century skills;
 - Schedule and organize more time for planning, analysis, lesson design, and professional development for teachers including, in some cases, the professionals from their partnering community-based organizations.
- Feedback, monitoring, accountability from state
- Funding does not cover every staff member in school (doesn't cover specialists, special educators, ELL teachers, all Mandarin, etc)
- Stipends have stayed the same since 2006
- Originally designed for Middle Schools

Proposed Questions for Caregiver Survey

- What is working well or not working with our longer day?
- What are ways that our longer day could be improved?
- Please indicate your level of support for continuance of ELT.
(low, medium, high)
- Would you be in support of a 7-hour day instead of an 8-hour day? (low, medium, high)

Discussion

- Would you like to maintain a longer day (yes or no)
- Informed by your prior vote, would you be interested in a 7 hour school day? What is your first preference, what is your second preference, and what do you not want to see happen? Can we do this question like a ranked choice voting
- Keeping questions simpler. Keep in mind that the context setting for caregivers is important about what it is and the history and how many hours we have comparatively
- Important to put the 6.5 is norm for context
- Advocate for more robust feedback process or in person meeting (and have it recorded somewhere)
- "What is the impact of possibly removing the extended learning time"- What could be lost from not having ELT
- Distribute in other languages
- Put survey on website
- Paper copies or QR codes at entrances for easy access
- One time parent email-
- Community Forum?- But how would that get captured

- Send home flyers
- Start with multiple choice questions and then open form

Summary:

- Add question: "What is the impact on your family?" (Low, med, high and then added box for explanation)-
- Add: "If our 8 hours is not supported, would you prefer 7 hours over 6.5?"
- Get rid of "what could be improved?"
- Add question: "What other questions do you have?"
- Community forum- Hybrid forum

Outstanding Questions

- What gets cut if ELT gets cut- too early to know
- Contract is uncertain

Open Comment (9:07)

- Appreciative of going through process
- Encouraging people to give positive and negative feedback

Meeting adjourned (9:08)