

Baldwin School Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Attendees

Parents: Caitlin Dube, Kate Flaim, Matt Meyerson, Eugenia Schraa Huh, Chunying Yue

Staff: Heidi Cook, Maria Flores, Corianne LaBounty, Susan Tiersch

School Budget Review

- Where is the money going?
- What are we working toward?
- Budget calendar

First order of business - thank you to Maria Flores, principal intern. This is her last day at Baldwin. We wish Maria great success. We have a new principal intern coming in January.

The most important thing about the budget is that the money is there for a purpose.

- Critical operations - this is decided at a systems level, does not include building based budgets
- Student-centered - how do we support students and their families
- Equitable - giving students what they need. Not all get the same thing.

The General Budget for our building is \$6.5 million The majority of this is spent on personnel.

The School Improvement Process (SIP) Budget - this is school-based, under the control of the school, used for school improvement goals = \$60,000.

Professional Development (PD) Budget - monies set aside for professional development beyond district PD = \$12,000.

Within the General Budget:

\$32,000 for instructional materials (new workbooks, school supplies, math manipulatives).

\$7,000 for field trips. This goes quickly because of the cost of buses.

\$5,000 for temporary salaries, like breakfast coverage stipend, before school targeted tutoring

\$4,000 to refresh the library collection

\$3,000 for computer and software

\$1,400 for custodial staffing for after hour events

We are very fortunate to have *Friends of Baldwin* supplement what we need. For example, they funded a second 3D printer.

Discussions/Questions

Parent asked, what is needed beyond what is budgeted? Buses for field trips are challenging because they are so expensive. The district used to have a 'free' bus, but this no longer exists. We are fortunate to be near public transportation and grateful for the line item in the budget, but that goes quickly.

We spend our money upfront on our intern program. We only have two interns this year, \$12,500/intern. Last year, we had 3 interns. We are also using money for tutoring (30 minutes/day for one of our teachers). Last year, we used our SIP funds on Second Step Social Emotional Learning program, math tools and games.

Question about SEL curriculum - are all schools using a SEL program/curriculum? No. Baldwin made a decision to implement Second Step last year. One other school is piloting a different SEL program. It's not a district expectation, this was our decision.

There is district mandated professional development. Baldwin has \$12,000 for its own PD. Our district has extensive professional development offerings. We use the PD funds for our own PD, like Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain books for the entire staff.

Question if there is anything parents should advocate for? Last year there was a lot of drama over adding so many district leaders and reducing para's in the classroom.

Heidi feels good about the budget. It is very formulated, per pupil plus weights based on student needs. There's not a whole lot more to ask for. One possibility is before and after school programming. The new Chief Operating Officer Dave Murphy is very thoughtful and thinks about what's best for kids.

Question: Is there anything in the new teacher contract that will affect the budget? Salaries are higher, that comes out of the general budget at the district level. There is a significant increase in spending for the increase in school day hours. The school schedule for next year is not defined in the contract and the increase in hours to the school day has not yet been announced publicly, but the school day will be 6.5 hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be a shorter day but not sure about the details at this time.

School Council Subcommittees

Caitlin is passionate about subcommittees. Here are her ideas for different sub-committees:

- Community building Using CASEL Transformative Framework for Community/Identity (getting parents involved in SEL)
- Parent voice in school council meetings
- Hopes and dreams for Baldwin

Next meeting: *Tuesday, January 15* at 8:00 a.m.

January Agenda: School Council Subcommittees

February Agenda: Climate survey results