

Tesnatee Gap
Elementary School
Governance
Council Agenda
September
26th, 2023



Call To Order- Welcome

Motion for Co-Chair (Jason Hogan) : Noel Cochran

Second motion: Valerie Mateen

All in motion- motion carries

Motion for Secretary (Kelsey Kelley): Noel Cochran

Second motion: Jason Hogan

All in motion- motion carries

Approval of Agenda

Approval- motion Jason Hogan

Second- Valerie Mateen

All in motion- motion carries

Principal's Report

- Governance Council Guidelines [Video](#)
 - Bylaws- if any questions, please contact Mrs. Cochran
 - Team voting- teachers were voted on the council by other teachers, parents were voted on during open house by other parents
 - Guidelines
 - WCSS Charter Goals- TGAP's goals align closely with the district goals (the ones that pertain to us the most is the graduation rate, GA Milestones, 3-5th grade, and increase in the number of students taking the MAP in fall and spring will meet their MAP growth goal by 60% (over half of the students at TGAP met their growth goal by their spring assessments)).
 - Robert's Rules of Order- provided to the GC team
 - Conflict of Interest Form- all GC members must sign
- 23/24 Student Enrollment: 502
 - Pre-K: 37 (this includes students who are at another Pre-K, but they fall under TGAP registration. It was asked if it is possible for TGAP to have a Pre-k, Mrs. Cochran explained that there are too many Pre-K's close to

each other. We have applied to have the Pre-k inside TGAP and are waiting to hear back)

- Kindergarten: 78
- 1st Grade: 70
- 2nd Grade: 70
- 3rd Grade: 90
- 4th Grade: 78
- 5th Grade: 79
- It was asked if the 3rd graders coming in have been on grade level- Mrs. Cochran explained that there have been some challenges, but the 3rd-grade team is very strong
- Kindergarten and 3rd grade are closed to enrollment at this time ○ The County office decides when a grade level is closed and those students will be directed to go to their district school.
- We have 4 teachers in each grade level
- Kindergarten has 4 paras (one per room)
- 1st grade has 4 teachers, 2 paras (shared para)
- The 1st and kindergarten paras are used to monitor the lunchroom, and open car doors in the morning/ afternoon
- Curriculum Updates [Video](#)
 - MAP (3 times a year)- Norm-referenced test (kinder- 1st grade has the test read aloud to them). Given in fall, winter, and spring
 - Heggerty- Heggerty as an auditory phonemic awareness piece. It is consistent in every grade level.
 - Foundations- Foundations has workbooks where students are working on handwriting and spelling/ decoding words. It build on each other. ○ UFLI- 3rd grade did not receive Heggerty, the county has purchased this to bridge the gap for 1 year.
 - New Math Standards- Teachers are relying on the Georgia DOE on the units. White County is creating a math literacy team to form assessments that have rigor and connect to the new math standards. (DOE did not provide assessments for the standards)
- Title I Information Funds
 - Family Engagement Policy and the family compact were sent out to all parents in Thursday folders with all students. It talks about responsibilities, and school improvement goals (Title 1 meeting is next Tues Oct 3rd). TGAP is trying to improve family engagement with Title 1 meetings by having it 2 times a day for options for parents to come (8:30- 5) and we will also have family events in the building.
 - School-Parent Compact
 - Communication- This includes the family newsletter, and principal chat, and inside the newsletter parents asked for more data to be included. ○

- Discussion Items

- Fundraisers

- Art To Remember has art teachers mail in student artwork using their paper. The company scans the artwork and then creates order forms for parents. These order forms may include coffee mugs, t-shirts, sketchbooks, etc. I have to have everyone's artwork mailed in by October 20th for items to arrive by Christmas. The goal is Christmas gifts! Money from the fundraiser will go towards art supplies. I would love for every child to have a mountain landscape piece ("Together we can move mountains") to take home by the end of the year. Funds would go towards every child having a nice canvas! Additional funds would go towards paint supplies and other necessities.

Motion to approve: Valerie Matteen

2nd: Lori Presley

All in motion

*Look into student treasure books (remind teachers of this)

*If LeAnne needs help, Valerie would like to help

- BoosterThon Turkey Trot

Motion to approve: Lori Pressley

2nd: Amber Gilstrap

All in motion - motion carries

If we raise \$10,000 Mrs. Cochran and Mrs. Alexander will get slimed.

If 60% of goals are met Mrs. Cochran and Mrs. Alexander will have inflatable turkey suits.

If we raise \$12,000 Officer Josh will kiss a goat.

For the kids, each day if the students met their goal, the PTO moms will be in charge of giving out daily prizes (it is not interrupting instruction time).

These funds will be used for outside nature trail and butterfly garden

- The tree will be taken out, butterfly bushes will be put in

- Phase 2 goes from the butterfly garden to the playground

- Phase 3 would go from the playground around the school, a nice paved path

- Field Trips

- Kindergarten: Skitts Mountain \$15 a student - Approved (Lori is

going to ask for pricing and tickets) Jason asked how much transportation cost of this- maybe \$3 of this. Students get to take a pumpkin home.

- 1st Grade: Jaemor Farm \$13 a student (Sponsored) - If the students do not have the money, let Mrs. Cochran know. We do not want to ask for this to be sponsored because we do not want this to be the norm for field trips at TGAP.
- 2nd and 3rd Grade: Hockey Game (Sponsored) - This was expensive, so they were able to get it sponsored. However, it ended up getting on facebook (parent posted) and then the school was getting phone calls about the school asking for money. We would like to get things local. All grade levels get 2 field trips (one fall and spring- before Milestones start). For these grade levels, the 2nd one must be local
- 5th Grade: SmithGall Woods and we need approval for Science Day at the high school on October 27th.
Motion to approve: Valerie Mateen
2nd: Lori Pressley
All in motion- motion carries

Further questions/ concerns:

We are needing a large master schedule across every school and sports that would allow everyone to not schedule things on the same day.

Parent feedback- we need to communicate county wide for scheduling

- Officers for 23/24 school year
 - Co-Chair: Noel Cochran, Principal
 - Co-Chair: Jason Hogan
 - Secretary: Kelsey Kelley

Dates To Remember

- Next Meeting: November 7th
- September 28th: Flu Shots
- September 29th: Mobile Dentist
- October 2nd-6th: Book Fair (parents can upload money to an online wallet for students to use at the bookfair)
- October 3rd: Title I Meetings
- October 5th Kindergarten Curriculum Night- Every grade level will have their own night that is coupled with related arts. For example, kindergartners are singing a song and have little oil bottles to go with their songs. It also involves 30 mins from the grade level teacher that gives ways they can help their

students in academics. From the surveys, most people said they wanted parent involvement. This is why we are having these nights to bring the parents in. We are trying to get the parents more engaged in their student learning.

- October 6th: Parent/Teacher Conferences (Teacher Work Day)
- October 9th-10th: Fall Break (No School)
- October 12th: Report Cards Go Home- WC has a new look for lower grades- we are being trained this week, we are hoping to show parents what it is going to look like during conferences. The reason it is changing is because it is standards based, we are using progress based instruction. The averages were being thrown off because of deficits in certain areas. There will be no average of the grade anymore. We are taking a "snapshot" of the students at that moment and basing the report cards off this. Kindergarten will still be using the GKIDS report.
- October 19th: 1st Grade Curriculum Night
- October 21st: Fall Festival- PTO hosts this. More vendors here so far than last year, teacher work a station, parents work a station, great fundraiser for the PTO

- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Lori Pressley

2nd: Diedre Alexander

All in motion- motion carried