

Howell Mountain Elementary School Site Council Meeting

May 12, 2025

2:45 PM

HMESD Conference Room

1. Welcome: Call to order at 2:47 pm by Vinnie Rothwell
 - Attendees: Vinnie Rothwell, Sarah Brink, Joshua Munoz, Elizabeth Avina Ayala, Amber Galusha, Tyler McDonald, Nikki Callnan
2. Public Comment:
 - a. Pastor Mike Garrison was recognized for his positive contributions to the school community, particularly his work with students and the greenhouse.
 - b. Members expressed interest in continuing and expanding community engagement next school year.
 - i. The council discussed securing community commitments for each classroom to support the greenhouse next year.
 - ii. Amber volunteered to assist, with a suggestion to allocate additional yard duty hours toward greenhouse activities.
 - iii. Nikki proposed adding accountability by having each classroom grow and sell plants at the school flea market.
 1. Amber and Mrs. Lehman will organize this project.
 - iv. Possible partnerships with Cliff Family Farms and Tessa Henry for materials were suggested.
3. Review and approval of Minutes from March 6, 2025:
 - Correction: Tyler McDonald's last name was corrected.
 - Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with the correction.
 - MSC: Rothwell, Elizabeth
 - Ayes: All , Nos: none
4. LCAP:
 - a. LCAP Approval: The council discussed advancing the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).
 - b. Title Funding:
 - i. Title I: Support for low-income students.
 - ii. Title II: Professional development for teachers.
 - iii. Title III: Support for English learners and migrant students (supplemental bilingual aide).
 - iv. Title IV: STEAM initiatives, including robotics, Tech Museum field trips, and enrichment activities.
 - c. Supplement, Not Supplant: Members reviewed the guideline that federal funds must supplement, not replace, existing programs. Unused funds will be returned.
 - d. Financial Transparency: Unaudited actuals and accounting records are publicly available on the school website.
5. New York Trip Discussion:

- a. Budget Concerns: Members expressed concern about the lack of a detailed budget for the proposed New York professional development trip (estimated cost: \$20,000 for airfare, lodging, registration, and transportation).
 - b. Funding Source: The potential use of Title I and Title IV funds was discussed.
 - c. Alternative Options: Members suggested exploring alternative conference locations (e.g., Las Vegas) or virtual attendance to reduce costs and increase accessibility.
6. Progress Monitoring Data Review:
 - a. DARE Program: A meeting with the DARE officer is scheduled to review curriculum and scheduling.
 - b. AMIRA Reading Assessment:
 - i. Teachers can override or rescore student responses.
 - ii. Spanish assessments must be scheduled manually based on language surveys.
 - iii. Recommended testing in small groups due to the voice-based format.
 - iv. Cost: \$9 per student. Licenses will be purchased for all K–4 students plus approximately 10–15 extra for upper-grade use.
 - c. ELPAC Testing: Testing is nearly complete, with strong progress noted among younger students.
 - d. Lexia ELD Component: A free trial of the new Lexia English Language Development (ELD) program will be implemented to support English Learners.
7. Next Steps/Action Items:
 - a. Informational Night: Schedule a meeting to share details about the New York conference, address questions, and gather feedback.
 - b. Discussion/Decision Meeting: Hold a follow-up meeting to make a final decision on the New York trip, including options for in-person, virtual, or alternative locations.
 - c. Alternative Parent Support: Explore using Title I funds for local parent workshops (e.g., trauma-informed practices, behavior management) in collaboration with Up Valley Family Centers.
 - d. Budget Breakdown: Prepare and present a detailed budget for the proposed New York trip.
 - e. Lexia ELD Trial: Begin implementation of the free Lexia ELD trial.
8. Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 3:26 pm by Vinnie Rothwell
 - MSC: Rothwell, Brink
 - Ayes: all , Nos: none