

## **Collaborative School Committee –April 17th, 2025**

**DATE:** April 17th, 2025

**TIME:** 6pm MST

### **ATTENDEES:**

- Terita Walker – East Principal
- Michele Steed – Parent, CSC Chair
- Becky Behmke. – East StaF | School Counselor
- Gregg Velasquez – East StaF | Teacher- English
- Angelina McClain-Walker – Parent
- Helen O'reilly – PTA Rep
- Liam Taylor- Student-Junior
- Keshi Rhode- Student-Sophomore

Getting started at 5:08pm

Interest in shifting to virtual meeting. Regular meeting space is for testing so the testing materials are in that space, counseling office already booked, since we had virtual option anyway, chose this meeting format.

DPS Achieve Gala tonight which starts at 6:30 which a couple of East students are presenting. Therefore, pushed time up.

Budget update: Similar to the last budget meeting. Another budget meeting with East financial partner to review and confirm hiring next steps are supported by our budget. East still in the positive with budget, carry forward and reserve. No challenges as of date to dip into reserve dollars.

Hiring Update: People working to get the positions up and running. Lauren Nicholas will return. Currently, is based on enrollment trends and data, because of the increase, as of right now 70 new Ss with IEPs in 9th grade class. Because of the increase of Ss with IEPs, we will have to consider a SPED teacher to support the caseloads. Gaining more than we are losing from the senior class. The average number of students that is departing is lower and therefore will need to consider SPED teacher for amount of Ss legally on SPED teacher's caseload. 8th grade data will be transferred to counselors and will become aware of potentially more Ss with IEPs.

As of right now, we have finalized hiring for most teaching positions. Waiting for HR to finalize for English and World Language teachers. Operational roles, hiring will begin next week. We are excited about the candidate pool. Social Studies over 170 candidates. Those interviews are wrapped up for today. Great candidates in place. Brook is teacher that will take on intervention class. Was in the building last week to meet a few people. Looking forward to many of the candidates that are coming and continuing to hire future community members.

Question from Bekeshi: Is the hiring process for the future dean of culture complete? Cannot announce the person just yet because HR process is not finished that.

Enrollment update: Looks like we will have more kids than projection says. Had a meeting with Laurie Premer, school choice represented. As of right now average for 10-12, is between 611-620 students, without attrition. Those numbers historically decrease but won't see those numbers until June or July. Can be difficult on schools and counselors. Saw an increase in newly choices in students in those grade. Did not offer seats to 10-12 graders. Seats that were opened are new in boundary students and student granted acceptance due to school closures. 9th grade: current numbers in IC is 658 as of 4/16/2025. However, in school choice dashboard number of potential numbers is 723. Typically don't see that number, 723 includes seat acceptance, choice seats offered to students and also includes 170 Ss that have taken no action on the choice response system. Anticipate that we will see that number decrease by the end of May. If the number stays that high, will not take kids off of second round nor waitlist. Hoping to stay steady and see natural attrition.

No questions at this time

Vestibule project update: currently on hold. District notification on that project. Interest in opening up and getting feedback from community. Two potential dates either on May 16th at 530-730. The other potential date is May 21st (day after graduation) at 630-830. Initial interest to not have Ss in the meeting but shared with district leadership that we want Ss voice shared. School board rep met with student council. Other meetings with

Ss may happen as well. Send reminders and communication as we get closer to that date.

No questions

All gender bathroom update: Has been a little challenge with district leadership on best means of communication because of OCR responses. Under consideration was shifting boys bathroom to all gender bathrooms. Questions around if this is a directive from DOE or from district team. Highly recommended that boys bathroom be changed by end of the school year. Recommendation from others that they complete construction before it is changed. Some missing context for district leadership on why it is important for the community and elements from boys bathroom that needs to be changed. Second floor boys bathroom locked currently for construction. So they need to complete current construction or changing to all gender bathroom. Checked to make sure that we are not out of compliance for number of restrooms to number of people. As of right now, no additional information from DOE.

Question from Helen: It is ok to keep closed? It is ok to keep closed. Our ask is that it is not reopened until all is complete in that bathroom.

Challenge is that some people have keys and are opening it to use it.

Question from Terita: Bekeshi what is the conversation from students on the 2nd floor bathroom? Don't think most people know about the boys bathroom changing into a gender neutral restroom. People not checking their emails/ newsletters. Terita: No official communication has come out. Conversations are happening.

Outgoing members of CSC: Just for awareness. Helen- 4 years strong. Will need a different member from PTSA. Outreach to others from PTSA. Michelle's last year? Terita will confirm. Greg and Becky, received confirmation email for participation from committee.

Past Action Item: Communications specialist was out and also standing in at RASA. She is trying to configure the best way to post the UIP information on the East Website. Not finalized yet. Not fallen off the radar just looking at the best way to post it. You can put what is available on the website but not reader and user friendly if you do not know what you are looking at. Best way to have supporting documents.

New Business: May CSC meeting is the evaluation day. Terita not present during this meeting. Last CSC meeting in May. Michelle and Priya will facilitate the evaluation process. Also will express interest in next year's CSC agenda items. Terita excited to learn from the feedback that CSC shares. Date is Thursday, May 15th for CSC meeting. Invites coming.

25-26 Anniversary Celebration: Greg filmed for documentary. 35 other people filmed. Robert Dean is the producer on the documentary. Shown during the Film Festival. Some dates and information are soon to come. Homecoming will be really big. Closing off the Esplanade for several events. It will be big. Lots of alumni present. Excited to see that happen. Greg said that the filming experience was an honor, an amazing experience and it went smoothly. Educators, students, alums, historians, and community members. Exciting to see when it comes together.

Discussion:

Helen question: new attendance system- Is there any tweaks to the system because getting a lot of calls for absences? For liability reasons cannot put the absences in before they are absent. Get the rosters and confirmation of attendance once event has taken place.

Exciting Information: Constitutional Law finished 4th in the Nation two weeks ago. Did learn there was an error and we actually finished 2nd in the Nation. Gilchrest invited the team and coach to the House floor. Kids found out while sitting on the house floor. 1 point difference between 1st and 2nd place. NY Times will publish a story about it.

