

Winthrop School Council Minutes
4/1/25

Attendees:

- ★ Parent Representatives: Christina Donehew, Kristen Johnson, Amy Lowe, Kimberly Mavroides
- ★ Teacher Representatives: Meghan Ganley, Meg Smith, Laurie Colitti
- ★ Community Representative: Katie Henry
- ★ Administrative Representative: Amy Sullivan

Reviewed and approved [notes](#) from 3/5/25 meeting

Elementary Paine Grants submitted- Amy S.

- Administration submitted for teacher PD and field trips. Professional development requested includes part 2 of trauma-informed courses, multi-tiered systems and supports (MTSS), and work on the culture of belonging.

World Language TWIG Grant- Global Child - Kimberly and Amy L.

- Update on pending grant request for Spanish instruction via outside vendor Global Child, which has been used in several neighboring districts/towns. There may be more interest than there is capacity for, in which case a lottery would be employed. It was noted that accommodations would need to be made for students with IEPs so they can fully access this programming if it's after-school.

Elementary School Building Update

- We have been invited into the MSBA process and are currently in the eligibility phase. The School Building Committee will be re-established soon. Town will need to vote in the fall to approve a feasibility study.
- School administrators visited the new Swampscott Elementary school and noted several positives, like flex space, pods for grade levels, collaboration across specialists sharing spaces, etc.

No Place For Hate Update

- Recent incidents - there has been an uptick in inappropriate, disrespectful, and sometimes hateful language in the school and on the playground. IPD has investigated one such incident with inconclusive results.
- No Place For Hate lessons are being rolled out in response to these incidents. They were not widely implemented prior to this in the school year. [Post-meeting addendum] However, the responsive classroom program, morning meetings, and SEL curriculum are integrated throughout the elementary program. Resources are tailored to different grade levels, and school counselors are available to support the teachers when delivering these lessons.
- Family/community representatives expressed a variety of concerns about the specific incidents and their desire for more **clear & open communication in response**.

- Representatives noted that many families and staff members were unaware of the specifics of the playground incident, including the slur used and the method of vandalism (carving), highlighting an area for improvement in transparency and communication.
- Several questions were raised, including:
 - Does the school have a written protocol for responding to hate speech incidents?
 - Who should be communicated to/with in the aftermath of incidents, and who should lead the communication (teacher, principal, superintendent, police, etc)?
 - What other constituencies should be involved outside the school when incidents involve hate speech, such as the IPD and Human Rights Commission?

What is Going Well?

- Shared positives like the Art Show running successfully despite the lack of a room last fall, and third-grade field trips that have been reimaged to align with the Wit & Wisdom curriculum.

Other - briefly discussed, but will continue at the next meeting.

- Parent volunteer opps → will add to School Improvement Plan.
- Safety plans update → crisis team has been meeting to discuss language used in safety communications. (like Shelter in Place, etc).

Next Meeting Dates:

- 5/6: Winthrop Cafeteria
- 6/3: TBA