

Site Council 2021

Rolling Agenda and Minutes

December 15, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm

Via Zoom

Time: Dec 15, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Monthly:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAsfuiogz4jGNIDPQITnnMyvHkfpe4PcLHz/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrzIrGtGQuRuBRpwIBYr4d_TwmCvEjY10uC_UDxRdbC7vIMpJNKJ6ROjT](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/j/84191055926?pwd=WkprZkMzTFZWU2hNS1dZcnV0VUk1QT09)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84191055926?pwd=WkprZkMzTFZWU2hNS1dZcnV0VUk1QT09>

Meeting ID: 841 9105 5926

Passcode: 6Xn9Jg

Members:

Whittier Staff

Nacho (Jeff) Carlson

Ashley Rudolph

LaShawn Hankton

Ahmed Warsame

Mary Daub

Laura Sanchez Garcia

Laurie Lamberty

Kathy Gretsch

Emily Boldt

Families

Shamso Muse

Shanta Carlyin

Silvia Avendano

Victor Morales

Sanjani Ajawah

Community Members

Fartun (Whittier Alliance)

Kaley (Whittier Alliance)

Rebecca Lewis (Whittier Park)

Guests: Patricia Pendleton (staff), Emily Cudhea-Pierce (staff)

Agenda

1. Warm Welcome: What is one winter break or winter holiday tradition that you will be able to continue this year?
2. Enrollment and Retention
 - a. Current numbers/ projected numbers
 - i. 147 Students who currently attend Whittier are assigned to a different school
 - ii. 154 Students who currently attend a different school are assigned to Whittier
 - iii. 199 Students who currently attend Whittier are assigned to stay
 - iv. If each of these students went to where they were assigned, we would have 353 students in grade 1-5 (currently 370)
 - v. District will allow for Open Enrollment until we get to 90% of our projected enrollment (which we will not know until possible late January)
 - b. Recruitment efforts underway
 - i. Incoming Kinder: 180 kinder eligible students live in our attendance area (not just MPS, but all age-eligible students). We have sent postcards to each of them, inviting them to our Open Houses and Coffee with the Principal
 - ii. Phone Bank: phone calls are being made to all incoming families welcoming them, sharing information about Whittier and answering any questions they may have
 - iii. Lawn Signs: PTA is designing lawn signs, and we will share the expense and get them printed, and distributed during our door knocking

- iv. Postcards, fliers: Postcards mailed out to all incoming families; will distribute more during door knocking
- v. Three Virtual Open Houses, and weekly Coffee with the Principal broadly advertised on other school webpages as well as our own.
- vi. Door Knocking scheduled for....Nacho?

c. Next steps

3. Kjersten's Art and Social Justice Fund

a. Vision and purpose

- i. To carry on the values and vision that William, Nelson and Kjersten had: Social Justice, The Arts, and supporting the healing from trauma
- ii. Endowment managed through Achieve Mpls; it is just beginning, but in a couple of years will build to approximately \$20,000 per year.
- iii. In January of 2021 a steering committee will be formed to manage and guide the work at the school level.
- iv. Bruce Ellingson (William and Nelson's grandfather) has donated an initial sum, to be used to support students healing from trauma; this will be used to install and implement a Smart Room, and work with artists to create new murals to build community with our new community school. (Most of the current murals will be painted over this winter as Whittier gets a new paint job throughout the building) Staff training will be the first step to this implementation.

b. Structures and systems

- i. Steering Committee to guide work, regular sharing with Ellingson family

4. January Site Council Meeting

- a. Possibly have projected enrollment numbers

- b. Review Academic programming, Winter Data Dive results
- c. Create staff, family surveys around budget priorities

Site Council 2021

Rolling Agenda and Minutes

November 24, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm

Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84445229291?pwd=SHVMOW5jVDRmVm81UTJrNEFwcDRSZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 4522 9291

Passcode: 3p9cC5

Members:

Whittier Staff

Nacho (Jeff) Carlson

Ashley Rudolph

LaShawn Hankton

Ahmed Warsame

Mary Daub

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Community Members

Fartun (Whittier Alliance)

Kaley (Whittier Alliance)

Rebecca Lewis (Whittier Park)

Laurie Lamberty

Kathy Gretsch

Welcome to our Guests: Emily (staff)

Agenda

1. Community School Playbook
 - a. Virtual Open House: January 11 (2:30-3:30), 22 (9:30-10:30), 27 (6:00-7:00)
 - i. Self-Guided Tour
 - ii. Parent Testimonials
 - iii. Zoom Room meet and greet
 - b. Mission and Vision :

Vision

All Whittier International Elementary students will become **independent global thinkers through inquiry and action**

Mission

- Encourage exploration, inquiry, and critical thinking
- Provide learning opportunities that integrate subject areas
- Promote local and global action

- Respect cultural similarities and differences

c. Measures of Success: What would be some ways we could find evidence of Whittier meeting our mission? Go to Language specific breakout rooms , discuss and come back and share

- i. Hands on, project based learning; not teaching the how...students figure out the how and the why; having students develop the understanding and definitions; lots of conversation student-student as well as student-teacher; using essential questions to guide the thinking; constructivism; unexpected explorations; students take turns asking questions (teaching students how to ask good questions); give students time to think and compare, give them tools and let them figure out how to use it; encourage problem solving, recognizing there are many solutions to the same problem;
- ii. Solving problems that are local and global in nature: finding solutions from around the world
- iii. Integrating subject areas: IB units of inquiry; Spanish: teaching content through language; ELL teachers teaching content through language as well; incorporating movement into math and literacy; Social studies/ literacy and science/ literacy in our IB units, it is just how we structure learning for all students; making learning relevant and helping student explore the historical contexts;
- iv. Student attitudes: action cycle...students suggesting that we take action, they demonstrate a desire to take action and fix it...their actions come out in small daily action (picking up trash on playground...hallways showing caring...demonstrating

passion for implementing what they are learning...they believe they matter and can make an impact...)

- v. Parent's perspective: sharing and caring for the little ones, helping each other out; respecting, listening and caring, especially grown up, home and school expectations support each other; student of the month, using the vocabulary from IB learner profile and attitudes; pride in doing well, challenging each other to do better
- vi. Being inclusive in allowing students to do greetings in home language; from SW: self advocacy for families; unit planning: building in multiple perspectives from around the world and multiple cultures; units are conceptual and allows for bringing in multiple cultures (windows and mirrors), as we address standards, being able to weave in perspectives from students and families in the community; ensuring that materials we use look like our students; students see themselves in our materials and work; learning about other people and cultures becomes very natural; creating a safe space for conversations that are normalized around race, religion, how we are the same and different; seeing how beautiful it is to see students interact and talk to each other about their cultures, as they grow up, they will have that deeper understanding of who the people around them are.
- vii. Celebrating students by displaying their art and work;

2. School Bell times

- a. 9:10-3:40 beginning next school year

3. Co-chair, Secretary

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84445229291?pwd=SHVMOW5jVDRmVm81UTJrNEFwcDRSZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 4522 9291

Passcode: 3p9cC5

Site Council 2021

Rolling Agenda and Minutes

October 27, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm

Via Zoom

Members:

Whittier Staff

Nacho (Jeff) Carlson

Ashley Rudolph

LaShawn Hankton

Ahmed Warsame

Mary Daub

Families

Shamso Muse

Shanta Carlyin

Silvia Avendano

Victor Morales

Sanjani Ajawah

Community Members

Fartun (Whittier Alliance)

Kaley (Whittier Alliance)

Rebecca Lewis (Whittier Park)

Laura Sanchez Garcia

Laurie Lamberty

Kathy Gretsich

Welcome to our Guests: Nasra Aden (parent), Mike Johnson (parent), Emily Boldt (staff), Kamille Wells (staff)

Agenda

1. State of the Schools
 - a. Presented to group, questions around standardized testing and how to make sure students' true abilities are captured in distance learning
2. Specialty Schools update
 - a. Whittier will remain an International Baccalaureate PYP school and will not be considered a Specialty School. It will remain fully funded through district funds
3. Community School Playbook: discussion questions. We will break into groups and discuss these questions, and share back with the larger group:
 - a. Who are we as a community? What are the strengths and assets of our community?
 - b. How would you describe the ideal school community? What does that school look like, sound like and feel like? What are the values and beliefs of the school?
 - c. What do you need to see and hear at Whittier to believe that this school is your school?

d. What do you see and hear at Whittier that you are proud of, and want to make sure remains strong through the transition to a Community School?

Notes from Discussion Share out:

- Who we are as a community?
 - Diverse, different level of income, different levels of education. We are here to support one another, staff, family. Different levels of education means different support for students. The way that students are learning now is different than when we learned back then.

- What are our assets and strengths:
 - There is a lot of support for the community. There is a lot of diversity in our buildings. All the student art in the building lets us know that teachers care and are invested in them. There is a lot of promotion, learning and celebrating other cultures.
 - Whole child, not just academics, community being engaged as a whole, specifically there are lots of kids who do not live in the neighborhood, but are still engaged; global campus, diversity of all aspects of the school community; school pride is legit! Whittier already feels like a community, there is so much happening all day and into the night

- What would your ideal school be like.
 - No bully and more sports. How can we promote and support students learning all the same so no one is left behind. More activities that represent all the cultures at Whittier.

This is something that can be done and be possible, people would be proud to be part of this community.

- teacher connections with families; academic rigor; lots of pcs of the community that are for all ages, alumni, kids in the gym after school, events within the school and park and broader community...seeing kids and families at these functions; Kids who are respectful, but not plastic, respectful but social time; digging deeper into the great pieces, there are lots of parts already established, but how to dig deeper for the harder things...esp. For the whole child; everyone in the whole building has the same mentality that kids are capable
- What do you need to see and hear at Whittier to feel like this is a part of our school.
 - It's important to feel included to know that I'm a part and not be left behind. It feels good to feel welcome. Whittier treats students well and supports our students. Want good communication, parents want to be involved in what their child is doing at the school
 - We want everyone to do well, lift everyone, everyone has something to be good at, and struggle with...all can succeed, strengths based,
 - Question our "Nos"...before we decide a student can't do something...be curious, why not? Not limit creativity
- What do you see and hear at Whittier that you are proud of, and want to make sure remains strong through the transition to a Community School?
 - To continue working as you are now, supporting and respecting one another. Like that IB is going to continue at our school. We like that we have our Spanish classroom and

support because students can continue using their native language. So they can better know their English and Native culture.

- Loves that at Whittier we teach them how to think, rather than drill...we look at the whole child not just the test scores
- Strong and dedicated teachers at the school
- Multilingual and multicultural nature of the school and community
- proximity to the park, build on that even more
- All students feel confident and engaged to participate in class; feel heard and valued, not ignored; a deepened family-teacher connection as a result of distance learning, how to continue and grow this?
- Community where when kids go out of the school building the neighborhood environment supports them just as much as the school; positive language throughout the school; need for additional support for parents esp. In Distance Learning, and continue when we get back to in person learning
- You can feel the joy when you walk into a school that is thriving
- Hold onto: teachers, maintaining staff to maintain relationships and trust

Next time: timeline and process?

4. Co-chair, Secretary
 - a. Positions remain vacant, will continue to invite
5. Task Force to get broader input from community on questions discussed tonight:
 - a. Will invite others to join in the process of gathering broader community input

Site Council 2021

Rolling Agenda and Minutes

September 29, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82934722105?pwd=MHhHUllvRIJjYnlzUXpDQ0M1U2t0UT09&from=msft>

Meeting ID: 829 3472 2105

Passcode: 2SufeJ

Members:

Whittier Staff

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Rebecca Lewis (Whittier Park)

Agenda

1. Warm Welcome: Introduce yourself, what is your connection to Whittier?
2. Mission and Vision of Whittier Site Council for the 2020-2021 School year (my proposal, let's tweak it together):

“ Whittier Site Council exists to guide the transition from a Magnet School to a Community school, ensuring that as we create our new school, we dismantle white supremacist and racist practices, and create new systems that are Anti-Racist and Abolitionist.”

- The intersection of several factors makes this a time like no other to recreate who Whittier School is

- Comprehensive District Design: the decision that Whititer will no longer be a magnet school, but will become a Community school
 - COVID-19 Pandemic: our school community lost lives, housing, jobs, resident status, and the ability to be connected because of social distancing guidelines. Distance learning.
 - The murder of George Floyd and ensuing protests and unrest--this event reignited underlying racial tensions and highlighted racial injustices
- Minneapolis Public Schools responded clearly with a move toward Antiracist Education and examining the White Supremacist Culture in our system, and in our schools.
 - Ending the partnership with Minneapolis Police Department
 - Contracting with Dr. Bettina Love to welcome staff back to the new school year, giving a strong message of the need for Abolitionist Practices
 - Training teachers in the process of curriculum transformation (the process of examining the curriculum used by our schools and teachers that are founded on racist and white supremacist ideas, and remove and replace with more appropriate materials)
 - Minneapolis Principal's Forum banding together officially to "Make Good and Necessary Trouble"

3. By-Laws review...**please read by next meeting**

4. Meetings days/ times going forward:

a. Last Tuesday of the month, 6-8 pm; does this work? **This works, Lamberty will send out meeting invites and make sure it is posted on website**

b. Open meetings; voting by members only; open discussion if majority of group votes yes

5. Co-Chair:

- a. Co-create agenda; alternate facilitating meetings: **Please consider this role, will check in with members in October**
- 6. Secretary:
 - a. Take notes, share with school secretary to be loaded onto school website and in newsletter: **Please consider this role, will check in with members in October**
- 7. Agenda development, and timelines for announcing meetings
 - a. Developed by co-chairs; alternate facilitation of meeting
 - b. New business- may be discussed, not voted on
 - c. Public notice, 5-31 days before next meeting; on website and newsletter
- 8. [School -Family Compact](#)
 - a. **Shared, parents present felt that the role described for families is appropriate, and very important**
- 9. [Community School Playbook](#): **Please read, we will review in October**

New Business: **Please be sure to review the Bell Time information on school website; we do not know what changes may be coming for Whittier, but please make sure your voice is heard.**

Business for next meeting: **Discuss Community School Playbook; Next meeting October 27th.**

- 10. Optimistic Close: What from tonight's meeting and discussion brings you hope for our community's future?

