

## Willow Creek Elementary School

School Accountability Committee

Minutes for November 17, 2022

6:00 pm

Attendance: Mary Whitney (principal), Chris Domino (tech), Julia Apte (parent, chair)

1. Welcome  
Since only three people were present, we decided to meet informally. Below are the notes from this discussion.
2. Julia brought up some general issues and concerns that she had or that parents had mentioned to her.
  - a. Can the report cards be customized with more personal comments, not canned ones? Report cards are generated by PowerSchool, which does have fields for frequently used comments. Mary will mention the request for more individual comments to the TRAC team (guiding coalition staff committee).
  - b. Can we offer our students more enrichment (artist in residence, musicians in residence)? Perhaps PTO can contribute to this?
3. How does school funding work? What can fundraising (PTO) pay for vs. the district?
  - a. PTO or other outside funding (grants) can pay for things (e.g., equipment and programs) and classified staff (e.g., teaching assistants). All pay for teachers comes from the district by Board policy.
  - b. The district determines staffing for each school by a formula that is based on the number of students at the school. There are some additional funds given to the school based on factors such as the number of students who qualify for free-and-reduced lunch, number of students who are English Language Learners, high absenteeism, and homelessness.
4. How do we get better attendance at Accountability meetings?
  - a. Send a clear message that this committee is where parents can make a difference.
  - b. Let them know that we have important work they can be a part of.
  - c. Return to hybrid meetings via Zoom so that parents can call in from home. Evening is often a hard time for parents.
5. How can we improve communication with parents?
  - a. Add a column to the "This Week" blast to inform parents about what we're doing and how our school works. For example, our POWER and ROAR themes have been in existence long enough that new parents wouldn't know what the acronyms stand for. We could do a column on each of the initials in the acronym stand for (POWER = Persistence, Optimism, We are Flexible, Empathy, Resilience).

- b. We could sponsor a creative writing contest for students on the POWER or ROAR words.
- c. We could have students create videos about Willow Creek.