

Ashland Elementary Principal Advisory Council

Agenda – March 24, 2025

Principal: Anna Houseworth

Assistant Principal: Shana Robinson

Administrative Intern: Matt Nichol

Chairperson: Libby Rigney

- **Welcome: Introductions/Membership**

Staff Representatives:

Vice Chairperson: Shannon Ward

Secretary: Katie Dupuis

Libby Rigney, Encore/Resource

Susan Simmons, Special Education

Lauren Kadlick, 1st Grade Teacher (1)

Brooke Freeman, 3rd Grade Teacher (3)

Melissa Peppy, 4th Grade Teacher (4-5)

Evelyn Ayala, Parent Liaison (Classified)

Parents:

Susana Steudle, Winding Creek

Jennifer Young, Ashland

Hermon Raju, Southlake

Cyd Eisner, Spriggs Road East

Kelly Revell, Community At Large

Susan Steudle, Supt's Advisory Council

PTO Representative: Alyssa Lester

- **Open Chair** (10 minutes)
 - No open chair
- **Approval of Minutes** (5 minutes)
 - Minutes were approved for the February 10th meeting.
- **Principal's Time** (15 minutes)
 - Agenda setting for next meeting on May 19
 - Rigney and Ayala work together to bring support to our families, through sip and learns. The April meeting was on online safety, but instead it will be presented during the Advisory meeting in May. Advisory agreed to have them present for 30 minutes because it is the last meeting.
 - Principal updates and VALLSS data review
 - VALLSS (phonological assessment for K-2) mid-year data
 - Low risk, is considered on track
 - Approaching, is considered midrange
 - High risk, qualified for VALLSS tutoring, need support
 - From the beginning of the year to the mid-year data, it shows that students in K-3 are making progress due to the tutoring they are receiving. Ashland has seen significant gains compared to the county in the mid-year data.
 - UFLI Phonics Program
 - Scripted daily lessons
 - Great number of resources for parents and teachers

- Mrs. Bailey showed the presentation for lesson 54, she showed what her students would do in the classroom. For all lessons students see the sounds, hear the sounds, make the sounds on the blending boards, then students do the new concept. The new concept is scripted for the teacher to follow.
 - Heart words (irregular words), they do not follow sound rules. Students have been doing well with applying them in their writing. Students go over these words every day through spelling, reading, and writing.

- **Assistant Principal's Time** (n/a)

- **Administrative Intern's Time** (n/a)

- **Superintendent's Advisory Council** (10 Minutes)
 - Mrs. Young reports:
 - **MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports)**
 - The goal is the early identification of students who need a higher tier intervention. There are MTSS coaches and support staff assigned to clusters of schools throughout the county.
 - If parents are concerned about their child's progress, they should always start by communicating with the teacher.
 - If a parent is invited to a Student Support Meeting, they just should be prepared to share as much as they are able to about their child and help with any information needed
 - **Mental Health Supports (Hazel Health)**
 - The Director of Student Health & Wellness (SHAW) and the Supervisor of School Social Workers provided an overview of Hazel, a company PWCS contracts with to provide short term telehealth support via therapy sessions until a permanent treatment plan can be established for a student.
 - All students are covered with no cost to the family (whether or not they are insured).
 - **PWCS Teacher Retention and Supports**
 - A group from HR presented on how they are recruiting and retaining teachers and substitutes, including a partnership with VCU for teacher assistants, subs, etc. for an apprenticeship program (Dr. Michelle Colbert, Asst Director of Human Resources).
 - PWCS retention rates are higher than state and national averages.
 - Salaries are increasing across the board, including a larger differential between BA and MA degrees.

- You Belong Here campaign – PWCS visiting minority institutions across the country; advertisements being placed in airports, on buses, in movies, etc.
- Growing Our Own Teachers – All high schools offer Teachers for Tomorrow program for students interested in teaching path.
- Upbeat is a third-party contract being used to survey teachers and staff about working conditions/environment.
- “Stay” Interviews vs. Exit Interviews being used to determine what makes people stay at current schools.
- PWCS Proud – Anyone (teacher, parent, student, etc.) can nominate any staff member to be recognized during 3 date ranges throughout the year (fall, winter, spring).
- Substitutes – paid training in classroom management, meet & greet with sub coordinators from schools, special education training for TA subs
- Family Engagement
 - Family Engagement Series – Typically offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays virtually (in person sessions have not been as well attended) and are usually recorded (if recordings are not offered, it is due to the nature of the topic being discussed). There may be up to 3 sessions in a week.
 - School Parent Liaisons – Every school has one... updated job description in January of 2025.
 - Family Academic and Community Engagement Specialists – Not required at all schools but are beneficial to promote family engagement (in conjunction with parent liaisons).
 - Community Hubs – Many local businesses are working in conjunction with the Family and Community Engagement department to provide resources for families as well as post flyers for things such as the Family Engagement Series. Pop Up events will be taking place (first one at Gar Field) for high schools and feeder schools that are a priority for on time Graduation.
- **PTO Time (5-7 Minutes)**
 - Second Bingo night of the year went well.
 - Spirit night at Chick-fil-A is on April 22nd
 - Thursday, March 27th is spirit night at American Steakhouse. With the new ownership we only get 20% from 5-9 pm and families must bring the flyers with them.
 - Staff appreciation for the first week of May.
- **New Business (10 minutes)**
 - Mrs. Bailey passes along how grateful Clara’s family is for all the support they have been receiving from the whole community.