

Meeting Minutes: Title I Advisory Council

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: R. Frank Nims Middle School, Media Center, 723 West Orange Ave

Attendee List

- **Talethia Edwards** (parent, TAC co-chair)
 - **Marie-Claire Leman** (parent, TAC co-chair)
 - **April Knight** (Director, Title I)
 - **Eileen Mayer** (Principal, Fairview Middle)
 - **John Olson** (Principal, Hartsfield Elementary)
 - **LaMonica Butler** (Parent & Family Engagement)
 - **Dwanna Moore** (Literacy Coach, Astoria Park Elementary)
 - **Jabaree Allen** (Community member, AI specialist at Business Automation Pros)
 - **Joyce Jordan** (Intensive reading teacher, Ghazvini Learning Center)
 - **Billy Epting** (Assistant Superintendent)
 - **Deshone Hedrington** (Principal, Nims Middle School)
 - **Sylvia Williams** (Principal, Springwood Elementary)
 - **Thomeka Glover** (Nims teacher and parent)
 - **Dr. Michelle Gayle** (Deputy Superintendent)
 - **School Board Member Darryl Jones**
-

Meeting Objective

To discuss the purpose and goals of the Title I Advisory Council (TAC) with a focus on equity, student achievement, parent engagement, coordination between Title I feeder schools, and legislative priorities.

Meeting Overview

1. **Introduction and Purpose of TAC**
 2. **Review of Recent Wins and Programs**
 3. **Title I and Legislative Priorities**
 4. **Technology and AI in Education**
 5. **Funding and Resource Allocation for Title I Needs**
 6. **Community Involvement and Support**
 7. **Future Priorities and Planning for Title I Schools**
 8. **Upcoming Meetings**
-

Detailed Discussion Points

1. Introduction and Purpose of TAC

- **Talethia Edwards** outlined TAC's goals, emphasizing **equity in Title I schools, student achievement, and parent engagement**. The council's role extends beyond discussion of the Title I budget, to creating advocacy for the needs of Title I schools within the community and at the School Board.

2. Review of Recent Wins and Programs

- Successful initiatives include **pop-up preschools** and **all-day VPK programs**.
- Other accomplishments highlighted:
 - A **Title I teacher hiring day**.
 - Improved **visibility of Title I schools and their needs** at the School Board and within the broader community.

3. Title I and Legislative Priorities

- **Darryl Jones** mentioned that his district is entirely composed of Title I schools. By meeting at schools, TAC members gain a direct view of successes and areas needing improvement.
- The board would welcome the TAC's perspective on **legislative priorities** and seeks a **diverse input from TAC and DAC** to inform decisions.

4. Title I Office Update

- A budget presentation was recently made to the School Board.
- Members present expressed strong support for the district hosting a **Title I Summit** again to facilitate professional development.
- Bond and Pineview presented at **Ed Tech Conference** and showcased innovative practices and garnered positive feedback.

5. Technology and AI in Education

- **Jabaree Allen** shared insights into Singapore's reorganization of education using AI, stressing the importance of preparing students for the impact of AI on the workforce.
- Concerns were raised about **AI's potential bias** in education data; there is a need for policies to mitigate bias.
- **Mr. Epting** pointed out the value of AI for teachers without traditional pedagogy training.
- **Principal Williams** agreed that the power of AI can be harnessed to save time, allowing her to focus on tasks that really require her expertise. Teachers will need training to learn how to harness that power.

6. Funding and Resource Allocation for Title I Needs

- Discussions focused on the **needs met and unmet by Title I funds**
- The need to work towards more equity in school sports resources by making sure that there is uniformity in what is covered.
- Financial support for schools coming out of turnaround status
- Early leaning support
- **Class size amendment** was noted as an unfunded mandate impacting budgets
Suggestions were made to provide **additional bonuses for teachers** in Title I schools.

7. Community Involvement and Support

- Advocacy, involvement, and resources from the community were identified as critical components for Title I school success.
- **Jones** highlighted the pressures faced by Title I principals, noting the risk of school grade reductions and closures.

8. Future Priorities and Planning for Title I Schools

- The idea was discussed to hold a **retreat** to establish TAC's 2024-25 priorities.
- **School enrollment trends** were reviewed, noting increased enrollment in Title I schools with demographic shifts affecting northern schools more.
- The importance of **community-specific programs** to retain students in their zoned schools was discussed.
- Strengthening the **feeder pathways** between schools and coordinating programs where possible.

9. Representation and Upcoming Meetings

- Emphasis on having representation from **parents, and community members** from each school at TAC meetings.
- Future meetings scheduled for the **third Thursday of each month**:
 - **November 21** – Fairview
 - **December 19** – Pineview
 - **January 16** – Hartsfield
 - **February 20, March 20, April 17, and May 15** (locations to be determined)

Action Items

1. **Coordinate a Title I Summit** – Assigned to Mr. Epting and Title I Office.
2. **Plan and conduct TAC retreat** to set annual priorities – Lead: Talethia Edwards.
3. **Develop policy recommendations** addressing AI and bias – Lead: Jabaree Allen.
4. **Explore additional funding options** for staff bonuses in Title I schools – Assigned to Mr. Epting.