



School Family & Community Council Meeting Notes

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

3:00 pm – Room 311

- **Attendees:**

- See sign-in sheets.

- **Notes:**

- Circle responses and introductions.
- Visiting Speaker: Erin Miller Reed, Audubon
 - Audubon was created in 2002 and has provided the community with children's educational programs, including field trips and after school activities in Patterson Park.
 - In recent years, Audubon's vision has shifted from an educational center to becoming an urban conservation center. Due to the change, educational programs are no longer provided.
 - Goals for the center now include bird conservation and tackling climate change.
 - Audubon is expanding from Patterson Park to serve areas citywide.
 - Current focus for the organization is reducing the urban heat island effect and providing more green spaces throughout the city to combat that. Currently, the center is partnering with the Division of Forestry to enhance the urban forest health of Lakeland Park.
 - Birding tours are available in Patterson Park and Druid Hill Park for free. All ages and abilities are welcome.
 - Gardening for birds workshops are available virtually and in person. Both beginner level and advanced levels are provided.
 - Service learning hours are available for students in the Spring.
 - Visit md.audubon.org for more information.
- Let's Start to Talk About the Budget
 - Enrollment Policy & Projections
 - Projected to have 940 students next school year.

- All newly enrolled students at HHA are in-zone. Pre-K students are the exception. Starting 2026, siblings of current students will not be able to enroll if they live out of zone.
- Frederick County Charter School Ruling
 - \$1mil will be awarded to us because of the ruling, which will mostly go towards staff salary raises and our new construction.
 - Specific budget should be available in February.
- New Construction Debt
 - Last payment will be in April. We will then start working on paying off loans.
- Questions & Concerns
 - Some concern about a vacant school building in the community being used for extra classrooms for another overcrowded school and apartments. Concern about the effect on zoning and adding to our school population.
- Pre-K Accreditation Update
 - Currently working on submitting documentation. More updates will be available in February.
- Community Concerns
 - New construction helping to decrease class sizes?
 - Goal is to have every grade have 3 homerooms and increase staff where our class sizes are biggest.
 - Brainstorming ways to use new classroom spaces and old gym. There are lots of possibilities and moving parts.
 - School safety?
 - We continue to schedule safety drills throughout the year. We also take many safety measures in case of emergency, including magnet safety locks and room numbers visible in windows and classrooms.
 - Possibility of building a more secure vestibule in the front of the school. Support is needed from the district to make this happen.
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC)
 - Family Academic Night centered around the Harlem Renaissance being planned for February 20th.
- Student Outcomes Committee (SOC)/Student Government Association (SGA)

- Currently discussing ways to fix water filters/filter indicator lights and planning ways to consistently provide feminine hygiene products in the 3rd floor bathrooms.
- Wellness Committee
 - Planning winter events.
- PTO
 - Very well attended winter events.
 - Shifting towards B3 planning for April. Looking for as many volunteers as possible for the event.