

School Council Minutes
April 17, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. by Mrs. Whalen.

The agenda was reviewed and approved unanimously.

The following School Council members were present: Martha Whalen, Principal; Emily Yewell Volin, PTA Liaison/Parent/Chairperson; Regina Wood, Foundation Liaison/Parent; Sarajane Lombardi, Counselor/Teacher; Kerry Lance, Teacher; Julia Curran Villarreal, Parent; Tracy Fleck, Parent; Julie Grasso, Parent; and Amy Martinez, Community/Parent.

Special guests in attendance: Anne Davidson, PTA Legislative Chair; Kristy Flowers, Face It Cobb Chair.

PTA Report – The PTA will no longer offer pre-order supply packets for students. Supply lists were provided for upcoming kindergarten students at registration and Sneak-a-Peek. All other grade levels will receive the supply list in the final report card that will be mailed home after post-planning. The supply lists will also be posted on the Sope Creek blog.

Foundation Report – The after school FAST programs have raised over \$23K for the Foundation general fund for projects to benefit the school. The teachers who run FAST programs have earned collectively over \$83K. The Foundation provided grade level grants of \$18K and over \$56K for projects that benefited the entire school (i.e. RAZ Kids, Math workbooks, laminating machine, special tables, and the renovation to the track and field). Their big fund-raiser, the Spring Fever 5K is April 26.

Counselor Report – The Student Council is planning academic Olympic events based upon the Multiple Intelligences for a day in May following the CRCT.

Teacher Report – The teachers appreciate the collaboration and coordination between the PTA and the Foundation to provide all the enrichment programs for our students, as well as, the math workbooks and other basic needs such as the laminating machine.

Special Presentation by Anne Davidson, PTA Legislative Chair. Anne complimented the School Council for beginning the school year by immediately addressing the dire budget issues regarding public education. Claire Suggs from the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute presented the most recent research on state funding. Parents, principals, and community members from other schools were in attendance at that meeting and as a result a grassroots movement was organized that ultimately resulted in additional funding from the state. CCSD has been able to present a balanced budget based upon this one-time funding source. Anne applauded the success of this movement and the results but cautioned that we must remain vigilant and keep the pressure on the state legislature. She encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming candidate forums at Hightower Trail Middle School (April 17) and Sope Creek (April 21).

Special Presentation by Kristy Flowers, Face It Cobb Chair. Kristy highlighted the positive impact the grassroots parent initiative has had on public education funding, including over \$500,000,000 included

in the state budget for education. She reminded the Council that this is an election year and this funding is most likely a one time “bonus”. The parent groups must remain vigilant and keep the pressure on the elected officials to deliver new and permanent sources of funding for public education. Kristy has been working diligently to spread the message from Face It Cobb to all areas of the county. The School Council, PTA, and Foundation have joined together to host a candidate forum for the Post 6 Board of Education election, between incumbent Scott Sweeney and Kevin Nicholas.

Principal’s Report. Martha reported that staffing allotments for next year have been sent to schools. Sope Creek’s general education teacher allotment remains the same as last year. Unfortunately, it will result in the same high class size for 4th grade at 31-32 students. Special Education allotments were reduced which presents a huge concern. It was noted that Sope Creek earned Challenge Points on the CCRPI for the progress our students with disabilities made. Martha is concerned that the reduction in support for those students will not only impact the students but the school as a whole.

There were no items for Open Agenda and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.