

School Council Agenda

January 14, 2015

Reference Room

Call to order

- Tracy Fleck called the meeting to order at 7:41. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mrs. Martinez. It was seconded by Mr. Shiram.

Legislative Update

- Mrs. Fleck shared that the goal is to provide legislative updates between the meetings. Mrs. Monden will continue to keep us updated.
- Kristy Flowers, Face It Cobb
 - School Board Update – 3 board members sworn in. Susan Thayer replaced Tim Stultz. Tim Chastain replaced Angelucci. Scott Sweeney was re-elected. Randy Scamihorn was elected Chairman and Brad Wheeler was elected Vice Chairman.
 - Today they will be discussing the approval of the permanent hiring of our interim superintendent, Chris Ragsdale. Meetings can be viewed live through the www.cobbk12.org website.
 - The Legislative Session began Monday with all members sworn in to serve their term. Education and Transportation seem to be hot issues. They all are saying they want to put money into public education. Governor Deal said he wants to include more money in education this term. Lt. Governor Gagle said he wants to create an education program that kids would fight to get into.
 - Governor Deal will give the State of the State Address today. We hope he will address and discuss his plans in more detail, but we feel hopeful that he has heard the voters' concerns about education.
 - QBE funding – It was promising to hear Senator Tippins talk about how it is important that ALL of our children receive a quality education. He wants to figure out what it actually costs to educate a child. Then, the plan would be to work backwards from there to determine funding. The suspicion is that decisions on QBE funding will be pushed to next year.
 - Senate Bill 2 – Has to do with opening up dual enrollment. It doesn't affect us, logistically, at the elementary school. However, it may impact funding.

- FACE It Cobb will be tracking legislature that has to do with funding. You can access this information through the FACE It Cobb site. (www.faceitcobb.org) (www.facebook.com/FaceItCobb)
- Mrs. Flowers encouraged everyone to attend the ECCC Legislative Team Educational Panel at Mt. Bethel Elementary on Wednesday, January 28th at 10:00 am.
- Discussion:
 - Ms. Moschetta asked a clarifying question about the position of FaceIt Cobb on the Dual Enrollment issue. Opening up dual enrollment for HS students to earn college or technical college credits will open up career pathways for many students. Mrs. Whalen added that historically the HS had a technical track. Schools eliminated that due to the expense. Part of this new plan would be to give students access to these types of programs through technical college programs. Mrs. Flowers added that one issue will be how to transport students and give them access to these programs. Mrs. Whaley says that one model is the Performance Learning Centers. This has been in place for a while, and it is exciting to see that it may become more widespread. Mrs. Fleck asked, "Is this a situation where they will take funding away from other educational programs?" This funding plan is unknown at this time and definitely something to watch.
 - Mr. Shiram asked a clarifying question about QBE based on a news interview that the legislature will be working on QBE for two years. Mrs. Flowers explained that the legislature works on a 2 year cycle. The question was posed by Mr. Shiram if the funding would be adjusted for inflation. Mrs. Flowers explained the challenges of determining a state-wide plan because of the differences between rural and metro Georgia. Mrs. Whalen added that with our new push to online testing, this can become a serious concern.
 - Reminder to sign up for emails from FACE It Cobb to keep updated.

Discussion of council priorities/role in communication

- Mrs. Fleck opened a discussion about the priorities of the council and the process to communicate with our community. This Council's #1 priority is to stay politically active and help engage the parents in the process. It is also important to continue communication amongst all the groups within the

- school. The Georgia School Council institute has information on the role of the council. It states "...a link between the school and community..." and "...increasing communication..."
- Discussion occurred on how best to communicate with parents. Mrs. Martinez wondered if minutes could be posted to the website. It was discussed that the School Council does maintain a blog. We discussed putting more focus on that link by adding blurbs to school website. We will begin offering a recap of the meeting with the highlights and link to website. Mrs. Whaley added that the foundation could send out information as well. Mrs. Fleck summarized that we will begin with a summary of the purpose/priority and then an "Update from Your School Council"
 - We were pleased to host Senator Sharon Cooper's visit to our 5th grade Science Fair. She was very impressed by the level of scientific thinking in evidence!

Special reports

- CCRPI scores
 - Judy Moschetta gave a brochure for our School Strategic Plan. She explained that CCRPI is the comprehensive school improvement and accountability platform that promotes College and Career Readiness. Data was shared detailing our CCRPI score with the CCSD CCRPI average. Mrs. Moschetta shared our Achievement Points (58.5), Progress Points (18.5), Achievement Gap Points (15), Exceeding the Bar Points (3.1). Our overall score was 95.1 which is second in the county.
 - Mr. Shiram asked how students are placed in different quartiles. Mrs. Moschetta answered that classroom data and standardized testing determines the groupings.
 - Mrs. Whalen shared attendance is one of the indicator. The old rule said if you had a student absent for 15 unexcused days or more it would impact your school score. This year the rule has changed to 6 days whether it is excused or unexcused. This will have a negative impact on all schools. This change has not been followed up with the legislature because the state law still talks about 10 days.
 - Video was shared about Student Growth Profiles:
<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Student-Growth-Model.aspx>
- Learning commons and Principal's report
 - Martha Whalen reported that we are administering the SLO (Student Learning Objective) assessments to 2nd grade in reading and math. 2nd

Grade Target students will have an additional test in gifted standards. This test is considered a pretest with a posttest in May. All students take this test online. We are thankful for our parent groups who have tremendously supported our initiative to add additional labs so that we can access online testing. In August 2015, a pre-test will be administered to all K, 1, 2, 3, target, and specialists. The post-test will be given to all of these groups except 3rd who will take the Georgia Milestones at the end of their year. When we finish our Learning Commons project with an additional 2 labs, we will have 5 total computer labs to access online testing. We've known for several years that this is coming, so we have been preparing. We continue to be thankful for the tremendous parent support that has allowed us easier access than other schools. Mrs. Whaley asked if parents need to know and understand the students' scores on this test. Mrs. Whalen explained that the test is designed to inform a teacher's instruction at the beginning of the year, and then look at individual students' growth by the end of the school year.

- Learning Commons – Reference Room has been painted and new tables and chairs are here. Desktops will be replaced with 32 laptops. The desktops from RR will be pushed out into classrooms. In the main media center, the bookshelves will be updated to light and mobile types to create flexible space. In Phase 3, we will be updating our morning news broadcast.
- Mrs. Fleck thinks it will be interesting to know more about the Learning Commons so that we can help support our students.

Liaison reports

- PTA - Katherine Isakson – Boosterthon was this big fundraiser which funds the budget for the whole year. Upcoming Initiatives: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Art Day, High Touch High Tech, Inside Track Meetings. We always encourage parent involvement with committees beginning in the spring.
- Foundation - Caroline Whaley – A joint letter between the Foundation and PT has been prepared to send home this week. This letter contains the position letter from Mrs. Whalen about the Learning Commons and information about funding and how best to support the transition. Mrs. Briggs asked if there is a plan to provide information in other languages. After discussion, Mrs. Briggs will liaison with the International Welcome Center to seek their recommendation.
- Counselor - Claire Murphy – Sope Creek counselors presented at the State conference based on their national level RAMP awards. She expressed gratitude for the holiday bears project which helped 20 families (50 children) have a brighter holiday. Much thanks. Career Day is coming with over 60 volunteers.

Career Day directly relates to our CCRPI endeavors. Lastly, counselors have a closing the gap achievement project with 5th graders. They will meet with them weekly to stress academic achievement behaviors, work habits. Last year's data shows great increase in work/study habits as well as academic growth

- Teacher – Sondra Briggs – At last month's school culture key committee, Sara Jane Lombardi shared that she learned many of the breakout sessions at the state counselor's meeting concerned the idea of culture. Mrs. Briggs recommended reading Darald Wing Su's writing on micro-aggression and color-blindness.

Open agenda –

- Martha discussed the February cluster meeting at Walton and will share more information as it becomes available.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Next meeting:

February cluster meeting at Walton High School

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at Sope Creek