

School Council Agenda

January 8, 2016

Sope Creek Reference Room

- Call to order – 7:34 am

Special reports and updates

- Milestones score report – D. Daugherty
 - Parent score reports should have been received already. We are very happy with our scores. We were amongst the highest in the county. Across the state, the scores look low. We are happy that we came in at the top.
 - As a comparison to other county schools:
 - 3rd – ELA #5, Math #3, Science #5, Social Studies #4
 - 4th – ELA #4, Math #2, Science #3, Social Studies #2
 - 5th – ELA #4, Math 4, Science #1, Social Studies #1
 - The separation of scores between the top 5 schools was within tenths.
 - Schooldigger has us listed as #1 elementary school in Cobb County and #17 in the entire state!
 - We are in preparation for this year's Milestones assessment. More information to follow.
- b. Legislative updates - Kristy Flowers, Face It Cobb
 - General Assembly begins Monday, Jan 11.
 - Hot Topics for Education include Merit Pay for teachers, Revised Funding Formulas, Opportunity School Districts, Casino Gambling
 - Bills have not been drafted yet. There is concern that education will not be fully funded from the state. They are redefining what "fully-funded" means.
 - What you can do is follow the news to see when certain committees are meetings and communicate with committee members.
 - Next week, we will share a list of websites to use to stay informed.
 - Since 2003, the state government has cut funding in Cobb County by \$565,633,709.
 - The School Council will continue to send updates as information becomes available.
- c. March 31st voting for new Council members
 - We will push out a nomination form for candidates for the school council.

Liaison reports/ Action items

- PTA
 - Author Carmen Agra Deedy and Representative Sharon Cooper visited on Wednesday. The program was very entertaining
 - 5th Grade Project Mail Call and 4th Grade Senior Buddies service projects are coming soon
 - Art Day coming March 18
- Foundation
 - Grants are now rolling in... we have THREE 3D printers (see school website for a cool

video), 30 IPADS for Stem Lab, coding materials, and STEM-related “toys.”

- FAST classes start on Monday.
- 2nd Session Registrations will start in February. Stay tuned for more specific information
- Parent feedback given to this council is part of the reason we have added so many enrichment opportunities through FAST. Thank you!
- We now have 28 classes, which includes almost 700 seats for student participation. 24 of the 28 classes are taught by Sope Creek Teachers.

- Teacher

- Thinking of current events, as we enroll students from diverse regions, we might want to consider the following questions:
 - What is the difference between immigrants and refugees?
 - What outside services can we provide to these students and their families?
 - What are the opportunities for global learning?
 - The group discussed about the possibility of having an International Day to help educate about different cultures.
 - Concern was expressed by Sondra Briggs that an International Day creates the atmosphere that diverse cultures are considered “other” and not part on the inclusive community.
 - Dr. Daugherty: An educator’s mission is to prepare students for their future. The future definitely seems to require global understanding.

- Counselor

- Many thanks to our Sope Creek parents as we were able to help 28 families during the holidays.
- Classroom lessons continue to support school goals.
- Small groups are beginning and they will include supporting academic needs in preparation for the Ga Milestones.

- Open Agenda

- What are excused absences?
 - First, **both** excused and unexcused absences count against our school’s CCRPI score.
 - We are going to start sending a graph of each days’ attendance monthly.
 - In general,
 - At the elementary level, excused absences are for illness, doctor’s appointments, religious holidays, or the death of an immediate family member.
 - Unexcused absences are family trips, missing the bus, or anything not listed as excused.
 - The COBB policy can be found here:
http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/Form_JB-5.docx
- When does construction start?
 - Main project of the gym will begin in 2017.
 - Other projects include new playground equipment this summer

Adjournment

- Dr. Daugherty closes with much appreciation to the committee members for their participation. Even though the council meets only 4 times, big ideas can be born and realized.
- Tracy Fleck reminds everyone to feel free to email if there are any questions or concerns that come up between now and the next meeting.
- Meeting ends at 8:38
- Next Council meeting: May 6th, 7:30 am, Leadership Lodge