

School Council Minutes

May 6, 2016

Call to order

Introductions of everyone present:

- Judy Moschetta
- Tracy Fleck
- Jill Hans
- Kristy Flowers
- Katherine Isakson
- Aimee Pulley
- Mike Mocklar
- Sondra Briggs
- Karen Carstens
- Susie Davis
- Doug Daugherty
- Jyo Shriram
- Megan Heinze
- Brandi Cheeley
- Seda Smith
- Nev Davis

Principal's Report

Have you seen the CCRPI score?? ☺ Scores have just been released. We are super proud of our score as the highest in the county! CCRPI is the accountability piece for the school on a hundred point scale. We scored 95.5! There is a goal of 91 for every school. Any school who scores below a 91 has to show 2% growth over the next 5 years. If you score higher than a 91, you have to meet your baseline score for three of the next five years. We hit a homerun early and now we just have to hit more homeruns.

(What does it measure? We earn points for how students score on assessments, attendance %, how many students score in the highest levels, progress of all students (student growth), growth of special populations (Special Education, ESOL, Economically Disadvantaged, etc), implementation of career lessons.)

Milestones Test Scores – Scores should be reported 10 days after they are received at the assessment center.

Parent Question: Are the questions on the milestones the same? How is it valid to have counties taking it at different time? Principal Answer: The state provides a window of testing and each county chooses the time. There are a lot of factors that go into the choice. The testing is so incredibly secure from the school level. It would be impossible for anyone to see the actual test. The only information that can get out is what kids talk about. There is also a pool of questions that are randomized for each test. Even at the school level, there are different forms and different questions.

Construction Update: Not much to update. As you remember, construction was supposed to start January 2016. We were told construction would be postponed to January 2017. We are moving forward with the expectation that we are still on track, but haven't heard an official "go-date" yet.

Thank you to the Foundation for the generous grant from the Foundation that will allow us to get a digital marquee. We have already had a site visit for the planning of the marquee.

Recap of 2015-2016

One goal was to revisit the bylaws and refocus on the mission and purpose of the school council. In a nutshell, the goal is to increase communication amongst the many groups represented in the Sope Creek Learning Community to make the school stronger.

We meet quarterly so it is important to keep the focus so we can work efficiently.

Tracy Fleck thanks the serving members of the community for their active participation.

We also look at the strategic plan of the school so that discussions always revolve around how best to support the goals of the school.

It is a nice, relaxed group which is so important to keep the dialogue open.

Liaison Reports

Legislature – As of May 3, governor had to sign and veto bills.

SB 364 – This bill is important for teachers and parents and goes toward CCRPI.

Three main points:

- Reduces the number of state mandated tests from 33 down to 24 over the course of k-12 education
- Reduces the student growth measurement from 50% to 30% for teachers and 70% to 50% for administrators on yearly evaluations.
- Students' scores don't count for the teachers' evaluation unless they have been present for 90% of the time.

Budget Bill was signed. \$300 million was given to counties. Cobb receives 33 million for teacher additions and possible pay raises. The governor said "give the 3% pay raise to the teachers." The problem is that this is based on the state's base salary. We know in Cobb we have to offer higher salaries to keep the best and brightest teachers. CCSD is using all the money to go to all employee raises. This equates out to a 2 ½ pay raise across the board for all employees. Some teachers will also receive a bump in salary due to their step increase.

Campus Carry Bill was vetoed. Although this only dealt with college campuses, this is important because our school falls into the category of "public property." Please stay informed on this important issue as there will be another push to pass a law in the next legislative session.

Election Day is coming soon. You can ask for any party ballot when you arrive, regardless of your registered party. Sample ballots are at www.cobbelections.org. We urge you to educate yourself and do some research to find out what they support. Our voice is vitally important. It is our right to voice our opinion for the benefit of our children and schools.

DOE has now said that the Milestones scores will not count toward grade promotion for 3rd and 5th graders due to extreme challenges with technology across the state. Thankfully, testing went smoothly

here at Sope Creek thanks to our wonderful Cheri Vaniman. We will still receive the scores, they just won't be a determining factor in promotion for 3rd and 5th graders.

PTA - The main thing we are planning is getting people to sign up for PTA membership and pre-packaged grade level supplies. Deadline is May 26. The new executive board was inducted last week. Field Day is coming next week. Cross your fingers for good weather! Our PTA was presented with the HEartst Family Foundation – this is huge honor and accomplishment. This means we will go on to a national competition to be judged against other PTAs.

Foundation – All the events have been great this year. Check It Off campaign will begin in July. It was very successful last year. FAST will start again in the fall. There will be a 14 week session or 2 seven week sessions. It will begin earlier this year.

Teacher – As we are wrapping up the year, students in the ESOL classes are expressing the things they love in their own language. I asked one of my students to bring a book from home in their own language. I was dismayed to hear that he had thrown away his books. There is such an importance to creating a school culture around inclusiveness so that everyone feels authentically welcomed. This is an area that feels deeply disturbing to me. We are going into a global world and if we are educating the entire student we need to foster this. We don't want any student to feel like they need to "throw away" their culture.

Counselor – College Day is coming! As you know, CCRPI stands for College and Career Readiness... In the past, we have always had a career day with different speakers. This year we will have a College Day. Speakers will be here to help students understand that post-secondary education is possible for all students. Topics include: how to choose schools, typical days, benefits of college, tuition, dorms, etc...

Open Agenda

Dr. Daugherty thanks the parents who are rolling off the council this year. He appreciates that everything the council discussed has always been in line with what is best for kids. Special thanks to Tracy Fleck for her leadership. The chair of this committee cannot be a school employee. We will need to fill this position for next year.

Adjournment