

School Council Minutes

April 22, 2015

Call to Order – Tracy Fleck

Review and Approve Agenda

New Gym Project – SPLOST 4

- Ground breaking commences February 2016
- The new gym will be constructed in the place of the existing annex.
- Martha Whalen advocated for the addition of 7 new classrooms to take the place of the annex rooms.
- Currently our gym is approximately 3,000 square feet. The new gym will be approximately 9,000 square feet!
- As part of the new gym, there will also be 4 classrooms attached to the main part of the building. This will all be under one roof.
- In the place of the old gym, we will also build 3 brand new classrooms.
- Another part of SPLOST is to remove all the carpeting and replace with tiling.
- All older bathrooms and water fountains will be upgraded.
- Impact
 - Teachers will have to completely pack their classrooms and workrooms in May of 2016 in order to prepare for new floors.
 - The whole back side of the building will be the staging area for construction. We will not have access to the track and play area from Feb – Dec 2016. This has an impact on recess, field day, and any community events on the fields.
 - Classes in the annex will have to be relocated temporarily. We will lose the Leadership Lodge and Imagination Stations in order to house these classes.
 - We are requesting that the architects plan on staggering the timeline so that we are not without a gym.
 - We are requesting that the existing gym floor be moved to the new gym. We are requesting that the architects plan to finish the new gym floor to match.
 - The gardens will be relocated and rebuilt.
 - They will also assess the drainage issues on the playground.
 - Fast Clubs will be on hold for calendar year 2016.

Website/Communications Update

Please sign up through [Blackboard](#) to receive notifications from the school. Karen Carstens recommended sending School Council meeting notes through this system in order to increase parent awareness and involvement with school activities and initiatives. It was also suggested that the School Council might want to consider establishing an official secretary to help with communication.

Minutes will be posted on the website, School Council Blog, twitter, and eblast.

Liaison Reports

- PTA – Katherine Isakson – Art Day was a great success. Field Day is coming up on May 1st. There are volunteer opportunities for this day. The nominations for next year's board is posted on the school website:
 - The PTA is also looking for volunteers to serve on next year's committees.

- Meet and Greet is already on the horizon. There will be opportunities to pre-pay for many things over the summer in order to save time on Meet and Greet. Be on the lookout for emails.
- Foundation – Caroline Whaley – The largest fundraiser for the Foundation occurs this Saturday – the Fun Run! Registrations are already exceeding last year’s numbers. This is great news because the money raised will be used for the Learning Commons. Class baskets are online this year. Make sure to sign up to bid.
- Counselors
 - Martha Whalen has been selected the Cobb School Counselor Association “Administrator of the Year.” She will be honored at the group’s Professional Recognition event on Friday, May 8th.
 - Sara Jane Lombardi and Clair Murphy will be retiring at the end of this school year. Lisa Hunt will come on as one full-time counselor, Jennifer Frederick will also be full-time, and Claire anticipates returning as a half-time counselor. All Sope Creek retirees will be honored on Thursday, May 14th from 3:00 – 5:30 in the Media Center.
 - The counselors wish to thank the entire Sope Creek community for their support this year. Just to give you a taste of what we have been doing to date this year:
 - 660 classroom lessons
 - 334 small group sessions with students
 - 758 teacher/staff meetings
 - 329 parent meetings
 - 299 individual student counseling sessions
- Legislative – Kristy Flowers
 - Money came into the budget for education. The biggest thing was Senate Bill 133 – If a school is “failing” the governor will have the ability to take over the school. There will be a constitutional amendment that voters will be asked to vote on. The wording will be “Do you support the governor helping failing schools?” As this gears up, we will be communicating more and more about how parents can get involved. If you have any issues or concerns, please let your representatives know. They often say “We don’t hear concerns from our constituents.”
 - News from CCSD Budget: 300 new teachers are added to the budget, a full step increase, and a pay raise. Cobb is making salaries more competitive with other school districts in order to retain teachers.

Open Agenda

Tracy Fleck – As we start to close out the year, it looks like we are on the right track to meet our objectives of the council taking an active role in communicating legislature updates, aligning the different school groups, and increasing communication about school initiatives.

Seda Smith– Expressed concerns about the sound system in the cafeteria which makes it challenging to present quality musical programs. Caroline Whaley says that the Foundation will make notes to look at funding for next year.