



Fernbank Elementary Principal Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 18, 2022
Time: 3pm
Location: TEAMS Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

- Joan Ray, Principal
- Steve Langdon
- Jessica Raper
- Alison Eber
- Khalia Williams
- Josh Bornstein
- Ruth Haas, Teacher
- Christina Heda, Teacher
- Becky Vaughn, Teacher
- Jess Russo, PTA

Non-Attendees:

- Keagan Russo
- Rod Eggleston

00 – Welcome

- Approval of Agenda
 - Motion: Joan, Ray 2nd: Christina Heda
 - Vote : 10-0. **APPROVED**

01 - PAC Items

- Governance Training
 - All PAC members have taken the governance training.
 - **CLOSED**
- Enrollment Drive/Outreach
 - Continued discussion on last month's enrollment outreach. Suggested ideas to support enrollment:
 - Signs in the yards of parents (enrollment callouts)
 - Website for parents to go to share information about Fernbank
 - Movie for Round-up for kindergarten (done in February)- a QR code that accompanies the K-Round Up
 - Develop an initiative to encourage the Fernbank parents to consider the middle school and develop a strategy that promotes moving towards the middle school program
 - PTA is working on schedule for MS counselors to talk with 5th graders and for 5th graders to tour the MS. Additional idea was discussed for possible Zoom with kids who are already in middle school and talk about their overall success of the program (possible videos).
 - **ACTION:** Steve to discuss topic with DH Cluster Alliance for group discussion in next Cluster Alliance Meeting.

02- Principal's Report

- Covid Protocols

- 67 out of 768 students signed up for surveillance testing. Approximately 85% of the teachers and staff are also signed up. However, while the testing has gone very smoothly, the timeliness of the getting results back is unacceptable as they have been taking up to a week. Other districts that are surveillance testing are getting result back in 2-3 days. PAC discussed improvement ideas including drive to get rapid tests in school and switching to another testing service.
 - **ACTION:** Steve to write email to Marshall and Trenton discussing the timeliness of results and request action plan to improve.
- Additional families have opted-out of in-person school due to the current outbreak numbers.
- Students can remain home with an excused absence and get work sent home. Approximately 10-12% of students are out daily. While the District has confirmed that the absences are excused, and teachers are expressing concern regarding lost instruction time. Discussion was held regarding ideas to share message that school is safe and that the mitigation strategies are working well. Can we get vaccination numbers to share percentages? APS has ability for parents to upload vax cards. To date DCSD has not requested status data from parents.
 - **ACTION:** Steve to raise issue with Trenton and Marshall regarding ideas to publicize the safety in school to get parents more comfortable.
- The students are continuing to do well with wearing masks. However, the school is running low on disposal masks and request to donate disposal masks will be going out in future Flash.
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- CSIP Review
 - 3 areas of focus SEL (Social Emotional Learning), Literacy and Numeracy. Looking at Fall vs Winter MAP scores to confirm growth and determine next steps for Spring instruction.
- IB Certification
 - Program review nearly complete. IB confirmation expected soon.
- Parent Volunteers
 - Topic was discussed in further detail in the last Cluster Alliance meeting. No change in the written policy, though requests are reviewed on a case by case basis and some exceptions are being made. If parents have a specific request, they are to write an email to Trenton Arnold detailing the reason for the request.
 - **ACTION** – Steve to continue discussion in DH Cluster Alliance.

03 - Students and Teachers

- MAP Testing
 - Winter MAP testing is ongoing. Once complete, teachers will compare to Fall scores and determine how to support each child individually.
- Class Size / Waiver
 - Joan is planning to meet with Trenton Arnold to discuss how allocations are determined this year. Fernbank is one of only 17 non-Title 1 schools in DeKalb. Our parents and community sponsors make up the difference funding additional school resources.

04 -DeKalb County School District/Region 2

- Druid Hills Cluster Alliance
 - Next meeting date not yet confirmed.
 - **ACTION** – Steve to forward virtual invitation to all once received.

- Cross-Council Meeting - Spring
 - Virtual Cross-Council meeting to be held in March.
 - ACTION: One PAC member to RSVP and attend once the link is provided by DCSD.

05 - Facility Items

- Comprehensive Master Plan/Facility Assessment
 - CMP is wrapping up and Druid Hills Clusters schools remain represented, including roofing and HVAC repairs at Briar Vista, Avondale and Lauren Ridge. The DHHS is included for significant addition and renovations. Steve attended the virtual CMP meeting on 1/6/22 and confirmed funding for these projects expected to be from ESPLOST and Cares Act. Steve noted DHHS may face opposition from those outside Region 2 so we will need to stay aggressive pushing for repairs/renovations as outlined in the CMP to be completed.

06 - PTA and Foundation Update

- Shade Structures
 - Foundation wrapping up plans and layouts. Upon confirmation, PAC to write Board requesting approval to projects, which will be funded from the Foundation.
- Auction
 - The auction is scheduled for March 18th as in-person event at the Trolley Barn.
- Spirit Nights
 - Spirit Nights are ongoing to continue to be a success.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Mar 8th @ 3pm via TEAMS

[End of Minutes]