

Fernbank Elementary School Council

November Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13, 2017
Location: Admin Conference Room

Attendees:

Joan Ray, Principal
Simone Willingham, Assistant Principal
LaShia Brooks
Ali Stetler
Becky Vaughan
Charlie Rogers
Kara Rozell
Brad Strawn
Jas Sullivan
Steve Langdon

Non-Attendees:

Copies to: All

Prepared by: Steve Langdon

00 – Council Officer Positions

00.2.1 – Selection of Officer Positions

11/13/17 – Council opened nominations for '17-18 Council Officer positions. Nomination was made of Charlie Rogers for Chairperson, Brad Strawn for Vice Chairperson and Steve Langdon for Secretary. Nominations seconded by Kara Rozell. Vote was taken and nominations unanimously confirmed.

01 – Local Government

01.2.1 – Emory Annexation

11/13/17 – Council has authored a letter to Atlanta City Council members regarding Emory's Annexation. Letter confirmed our agreement with Dr. Green's stance that the annexation should neither involve nor disturb long-standing school attendance boundaries. Annexation has yet to be confirmed by the Atlanta City Council. The Atlanta Mayoral election resulted in a runoff to be held in December. Council is expecting an update from the Atlanta City Council after the mayoral race is confirmed.

02 – Future Student Population

02.1.1 – Briar Vista Elementary K-8 Montessori

9/18/17 - Erin Littles from the Briar Vista Elementary (BVE) School Council was a guest attendee. She came to discuss a proposal that BVE become a Montessori-only Kindergarten through 8th Grade school. As part of this proposal, the traditional learner students at BVE would join Fernbank. There are currently approximately 500 students at BVE, of which slightly more than half are students within the Montessori program, some are from within the BVE attendance zone but most are from School Choice. The Council recommended that we hold a special

Council meeting in October to discuss further and request Marshall Orson attend to provide further information from DeKalb County.

11/13/17 – No updates to BVE’s future plans.

[ACTION – Contact BVE for update]

02.2.1 – Stabilize Attendance Zone

11/13/17 – John Lewis Elementary remains on target for a fall ’19 opening and therefore the Fernbank students from the Buford Highway corridor will have a new school in less than 2 years. With the expected vacancy of ~225 seats, in addition to the BVE expansion, the Council discussed other options to stabilize Fernbank’s future student population including a continuous attendance zone expansion into Medlock, transition to a K-8 school, increasing the gifted program population and continuing to offer overflow expansion to other Dekalb County schools. Council agreed that a meeting with Dr. Green should be scheduled to discuss further.

[ACTION – Hold meeting with Dr. Green]

03 – Students and Teachers

03.2.1 – Katie Bashor Sun Shelter

11/13/17 – Thanks to generous donations, the new Katie Bashor sun shelter will be erected near the playground later this month. The dedication is scheduled for Dec 4th.

03.2.2 – Student Technology

11/13/17 – 427 new Chromebooks arrived from Dekalb County this month. Chromebooks will be distributed to the classrooms for in-class student use. Grade levels 3-5 will be provided one for each student and grades K-2 will provided laptops at a 1 book : 2 student ratio.

04 – Other Business

04.1.1 – Window Blinds

9/18/17 - The Library and Cafeteria do not have window blinds. As researched and confirmed over the summer, the construction plans included electrical raceways for electronic blinds in the Cafeteria but the blinds themselves were not part of the scope. As confirmed with the County, they do not plan to fund added blinds at this time. Joan has obtained a quote from Budget Blinds for approximately \$12,000 to add electronic blinds in the Cafeteria and manual blinds in the Library. Kara offered to get a quote for window film as an alternative.

11/13/17 – Joan and staff identified an educational/instructional impediment that new blinds would remove. The Council agreed that the Fernbank Foundation to decide if they want to allocate the funds for new blinds.

[ACTION – None.]

Next Meeting: 1/16/18

[End of Minutes]