



Fernbank Elementary Principal Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14, 2021
Time: 3pm
Location: TEAMS Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

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

00 – Welcome

- Approval of Agenda
 - Motion: Keagan Russo, 2nd: Steve Langdon
 - Vote : 11-0. **APPROVED**

01 - PAC Items

- Governance Training
 - All PAC members have taken the governance training minus one person we will follow up to ensure that everyone complies.
- Enrollment Drive/Outreach
 - School starts on August 8, 2022. The forecast for enrollment for DeKalb County suggests continued low enrollment. We reviewed ideas to get families back in public school. We have had a strong engagement from the Love Fund suggesting we have a lot of engagement from families that are enrolled. The Love Fund was a huge success and a lot of parental involvement.
 - 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
 - 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
 - The surveillance test began last Wednesday and has gone well. 67 out of 768 students signed up for surveillance testing.
 - If parents want to opt into surveillance testing, they can do so again in mid-January 2022. The information will be shared by the school when it is available.
 - Students are not allowed to opt into the virtual classroom environment; it is only opt-out.
 - The students are doing well with wearing masks. The school is also using disposal masks and if anyone is available to donate disposal masks.
 - A mask survey mandate was sent to parents and overwhelming the feedback has been to maintain the masks in the schools.
 - At this time, we do not have the stats on the number of kids who have been vaccinated.
- CSIP Review
 - 3 areas of focus SEL (Social Emotional Learning), Literacy and Numeracy. The school is putting attention into SEL as this has been the element that has been more difficult since returning to school from the previous covid restrictions.
- IB Certification
 - All necessary factors have been completed to submit the certification, and the school is expected to receive re-authorization for the next five years. It has been a great opportunity for the school to review the program and adjust where necessary.
- Parent Volunteers
 - We look forward to welcoming parents back to the school, but we agree that now is not the time to open to school back up to parents, although teachers are overwhelmed with needing help. The PAC will continue to explore opportunities to provide connections in the school that will appease parents who wish to come back.
 - **ACTION** – Steve to discuss with DH Cluster Alliance for larger group discussion with Regional Superintendent.

03 - Students and Teachers

- MAP Testing
 - Fall Map testing results were encouraging. Winter MAP testing has begun. In January, they will compare to Fall scores and determine how to support each child individually.

04 -DeKalb County School District/Region 2

- Druid Hills Cluster Alliance
 - Next meeting is Thursday, December 16th, 5:30 pm.
 - **ACTION** – Steve to forward virtual invitation to all.
- E-SPLOST VI
 - E-SPLOST passed, which provides improvements across the school district.
- Cross-Council Meeting Recap: Family Engagement
 - Steve attended virtual Cross-Council meeting last month. A guest speaker and break-out groups were a part of it to ensure families are engaged in the school. The Spring Cross-Council meeting will be held mid-March. Stay tuned to PAC announcements for the exact dates.

05 - Facility Items

- Comprehensive Master Plan/Facility Assessment

- Druid Hills Clusters schools are being represented in the current CMP, including roofing and HVAC repairs at Briar Vista, Avondale and Lauren Ridge. The DHHS is included for significant addition and renovations. DCSD is hosting the next CMP virtual meeting on 1/6/22.
- **ACTION** – Steve to attend 1/6/22 virtual meeting.

06 - PTA and Foundation Update

- Shade Structures
 - Foundation continuing to look at options for outdoor shade structures to accommodate outdoor learning. Once confirmed, PAC to request Board approval. If confirmed, work would likely take place summer of 2022.
- Fund the Fern-
 - With fantastic support from the parental community, the fern drive fund made ~\$100,000.
- Auction
 - The auction is scheduled for March 18th.
 - Trolley Barn continues to be the location for the event. (If anything changes with the date, we will communicate as we get closer to the date)
- Book Fair /Spirit Nights—all have gone well.

07 - Other/MS

- Class Size / Waivers
 - A discussion was held on class sizes and DCSD's waiver to modify the state mandated class size. The PAC should advocate for 2022 to have DeKalb county revisit the waiver regarding maximum class size.
 - **ACTION:** Mrs. Haas will obtain more information about attendance requirements and how this could impact Fernbank to discuss and provide an informed viewpoint.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Jan 11th @ 3pm via TEAMS

[End of Minutes]