



Fernbank Elementary Principal Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 10, 2022
Time: 3:00-4:30pm
Location: Fernbank Administration Conference Room and MS Teams

Attendees

- Syrenthia Bines-Truitt, Interim Principal
- Aaronlyn Wright, Assistant Principal
- Catherine Corser, Teacher
- Christina Heda, Teacher
- Josh Bornstein
- Alison Eber
- Kristina Johnson
- Steve Langdon
- Jeff Oliver
- Martina Stanley
- Khalia Williams

Absent Members:

- Simone Willingham, Assistant Principal
- Becky Vaughn, Teacher
- Ruth Haas, Teacher

00 – Welcome

- Approval of Agenda
 - Unanimously approved

01 – PAC Items

- PAC Members
 - DCSD Governance Training
 - Members confirmed all will or have taken the required training.
 - Photos for websites
 - **ACTION:** All to send photos to Sara Smith (sarasmith810@gmail.com).
 - Compliance reporting
 - **ACTION:** Secretary to complete the compliance form.
 - **ACTION:** All to complete an individual contact form.
- Principal Search Status and Flowchart
 - Step 1 – Position Posting - CLOSED
 - Step 2 – Leadership Attribute Survey - CLOSED
 - Step 3 – Resume Review - CLOSED
 - It was reported that the top 5 will be interviewed next week.
 - Step 4 – Professional Interviews – Wed 11/16
 - It was reported that the top 2 will progress to the Focus Group.
 - Step 5 – Focus Group - TBD
 - It is expected that the Focus Group will occur the week after Thanksgiving. Comments will be sent to the Superintendent who makes the final decision. The goal is to announce the new principal prior to the end of 2022.
 - Laurel Ridge and Briarlake both finished their processes and the process worked well for them. Neither of the two selectees are on the Fernbank list.

- Note: The principal at DHMS was promoted to Regional Superintendent and they are starting this process as well. Chair is providing support.
- **ACTION:** Chair to seek input on Focus Group questions from PAC.

02 – Principal Report

- COVID Protocols
 - DCSD Policies
 - Surveillance Testing
- CSIP Status
 - Ms. Bines-Truitt provided a draft CSIP summary document for PAC review. The full document will be uploaded to the web site. The summary will be put on the counter of the school and included with the minutes. Literacy and Math are the top priorities followed by School Climate.
 - Milestones data were reviewed. Progress year over year was noted. Fernbank scored in the upper 25% in DeKalb County. Ms. Bines-Truitt offered to do a deep-dive at a subsequent meeting if desired by the PAC. It was noted that it might be a good idea to pull some samples to see how students are progressing through quartiles over the years. Ms. Bines-Truitt noted this is done in general but not with a specific student (i.e., overall average starting % has increased over time). Progress monitoring was discussed - MAP was mentioned, teacher-specific assessments, and other devices are used. Teachers discuss pacing guides and grades regularly. Teachers have robust tools reviewed regularly to know which students need what types of support.
- Student Counts
 - Ms. Bines-Truitt provided demographic data. The PAC discussed how there is a lack of “other” category in the report.
 - Fernbank is at 745 and steadily growing – weekly. Enrollment is expected to increase, particularly in upper grades, after winter break. It was noted that DCSD lists Fernbanks as a 950-seat school; Fernbank believes we can successfully handle up to 850 students.
 - It was noted that the administrative team has made great strides in balancing class sizes.

03 – Students and Teachers

- Winter MAP Test Schedule
 - It was noted that this will occur in December 2022 and January 2023.
- School Nurse Support
 - **ACTION:** Chair to follow-up with Ms. Bines-Truitt on any actions that occurred.
- Canvas
 - It was reported that additional grade levels are adopting Canvas over time. It was noted this is an appropriate system for grades 3+. Teachers are learning new functionality (e.g., tie to Infinite Campus). Courses continued to be offered to teachers.

04 – DeKalb County School District / Region 2

- It was reported that two PAC members attempted to participate in the Cross-Council meeting but technical difficulties with breakout sessions prevented further participation.
- Druid Hills Cluster Alliance
 - The next meeting for the Cluster Alliance meeting after Thanksgiving (Nov 28, 5:20pm). The last meeting provided updates from each school on events.

- Red Devil Task Force
 - No meetings are planned at this time. Current projects are slated to occur under SPLOST VI.

05 – Facility Items

- Fernbank Work Order Status
 - It was reported that Mr. Arnold responded favorably to the thank you email sent by the PAC.
 - There is only one outstanding item at this time (work order placed last week). Everything is being addressed in a timely fashion.

06 – PTA and Foundation Update

- The Reflections program is moving forward. The Film at the Fern went very well. Book Fair is coming up (note there will be an evening event as well). The Cookie Exchange is in progress. The Love Fund will be an upcoming effort this year.
- Outdoor Classroom
- Fun Run Recap
- Fund the Fern Recap
 - The goal was exceeded. All rewards were earned.
- Auction - Friday March 3rd

07 – General

SCHOOL PROFILE

- Home of the Falcons
- School Colors: Green and White
- Enrollment: 746
- Grades Served: Pre-K 3-year-old to 5th Grade
- PYP IB World School
- Fernbank Foundation, Fernbank Principal Advisory Council, and Fernbank PTA
- 2021-2022 Healthy School Award Recipient
- Over 95% of homeroom teachers are Gifted Certified
- Member of Druid Hills High School Cluster Alliance
- Over \$80, 000 raised in annual Fund the Fern fundraiser
- School Clubs: Martial Arts, Dance, Chess, Basketball, Art, Kids TV, and Girls on the Run



FERNBANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

Priority Area I: Literacy

1. Fernbank ES will increase the number of 3rd-5th Grade students scoring in the Developing or higher range in ELA on the Georgia Milestones EOG Assessment by 3% (87.61 to 89.00%)
2. Fernbank ES will decrease the number of students in grades K-5 scoring in the lowest quartile on the NWEA MAP Assessment from 10.33% to 7.33%

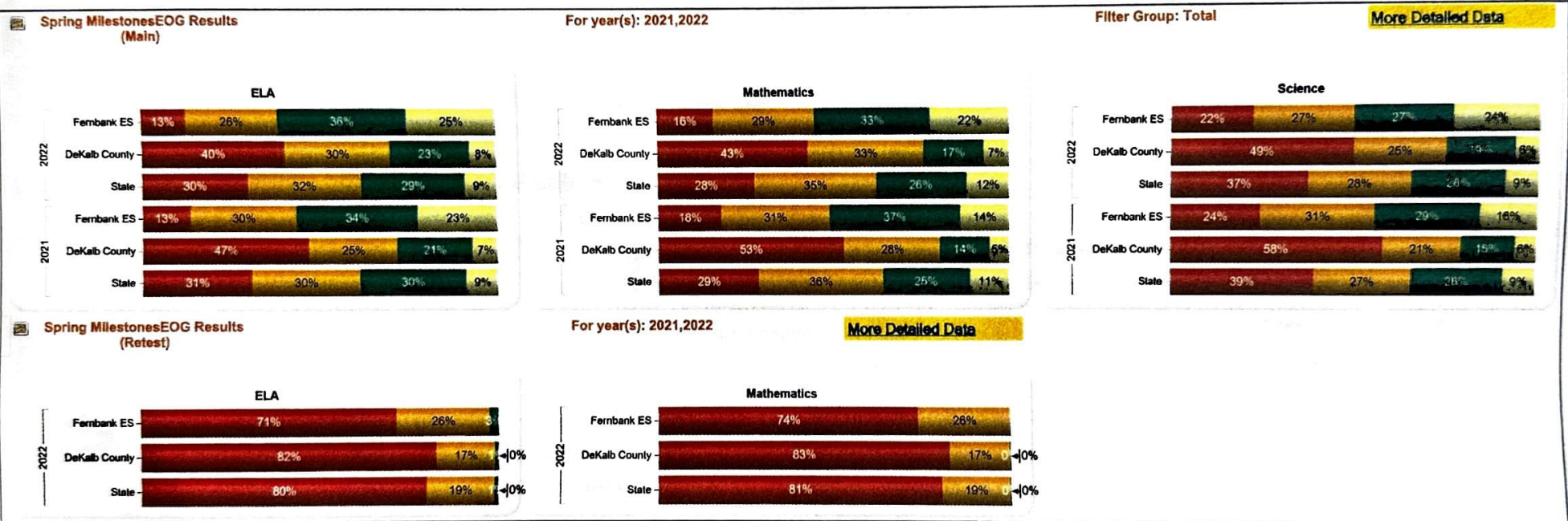
Priority Area II: Mathematics

1. Fernbank ES will increase the number of 3rd-5th Grade students scoring in the Developing or higher range in Mathematics on the Georgia Milestones EOG Assessment by 3% (84.00 to 86.52%)
2. Fernbank ES will decrease the number of students in grades K-5 scoring in the lowest quartile on the NWEA MAP Assessment from 8.33% to 5.33%

IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

- DeKalb County School District Curriculum Implementation
- Georgia Standards of Excellence Implementation
- Balanced Literacy taught in all subject areas
- Balanced Numeracy integrated in all subject areas
- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Inquiry-Based Educational Framework Integration
- Multi-Tiered Student Support Interventions
- Extended Learning Time for enrichment, acceleration, and remediation
- Small group counseling
- Professional Learning Communities

Mission Statement: To stimulate a life-long love of learning. To foster self-respect, respect for others, self-discipline, and creative problem solving. To help each child identify and cultivate hi/her greatest potentials.



Other Features



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS *(for selected calendar)*

