



Fernbank Elementary Principal Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 19, 2021
Time: 3pm
Location: TEAMS Virtual Meeting

Attendees

- Joan Ray, Principal
- Steve Langdon
- Barbara Christiansen
- Josh Bornstein
- Rod Eggleston
- Jess Russo (non-voting)

Teacher representatives:

- Ruth Haas
- Catherine Corser

Non-Attendees:

- Keegan Russo
- Lindsay Wolf
- Rebecca Vaughan

A quorum of voting members were present.

00 – Welcome

- **Approval of Agenda:** 1st MOTION: Josh Bornstein, 2nd MOTION: Steve Langdon; VOTE: 8 YES / 0 NO - **APPROVED**

01 – PAC Items

- **2021-2022 PAC Elections**
 - Nomination period is open until September 3. There are 4 members of the PAC whose terms end this year: Steve, Barbara, Lindsay, Rod
 - **ACTION:** Publicize PAC elections in the Fernbank Flash
 - **ACTION:** Advertise PAC elections at Fernbank 101 and Curriculum Night next week
- **Open PAC Parent Position**
 - We could elect someone on a one-year term – to finish out the term of the person who left.
- **PAC By Laws changes – Clusters**
 - [Brief conversation about clusters.]
- **Curriculum Night**
 - Curriculum Night and Fernbank 101 take place next week
 - **ACTION:** Send out a FAQ list in advance of Fernbank 101, to address many anticipated questions. (Josh/Barbara/Joan to draft) Questions include:
 - What do I do when my child has to quarantine? Do they go virtual?
 - What is considered close contact?
 - How do I get notified?
 - How long is quarantine?
 - Can the school do COVID testing?

- How many confirmed cases have there been so far? – we’re at 5-6 right now, and the people who have been positive have stayed home before and after
- How are you keeping our kids safe during mealtime?

02 – Principal Report

• **Back-To-School Update**

- F2F Student Counts: At ~768 today total. About 15 of these are virtual.
- Virtual Learners
 - Students who are quarantined do NOT switch to virtual learning; they get work from their homeroom teacher. (There is one virtual teacher designated per grade, so kids quarantining can’t switch from classroom to classroom.)
- Other pandemic-related:
 - Quarantining: CDC guidance says that if you live in “congregant housing” (which officially includes apartment buildings), you’re supposed to quarantine for the whole 14 days or 7 days with a negative COVID test.
 - Screening testing:
 - Principal has received info from a program that does testing in schools.
 - Topic of screening testing was raised at the cluster meeting on 8/16.
 - We know that APS and CoD are doing screening testing. Wonder how they are funding this.
- PPE/Cleaning/Sanitizing/HVAC
 - Need more kid-sized disposable masks for kids who need a second mask during the school day.
 - Vented masks not allowed. Can duct tape inside them to seal up the vent.
 - Cleaning and HVAC: Having horrible problem with wasps. Have honeybee infestation inside.

• **CSIP Review**

- Don’t have to do anything with this until the first monitoring cycle in October. Really focusing on building community in the first few weeks to support SEL.

• **IB Re-Certification**

- Kelly Taylor (5th-grade teacher) is addressing the issues that came up in reauthorization. (E.g., Toddle (?) online platform wasn’t fully functional.)

03 – Students and Teachers

• **Spring MAP Testing recap**

- Scores showed growth among the subset of students that took MAP tests.

• **Fall MAP Testing – starts week of August 23**

- This is coming up.

• **Milestones – data is skewed because only a subset of students tested**

- 3rd grade: 33 kids tested – 90+% were at/above grade level on reading
- 4th grade: 63 tested – 73% at/above grade level on reading
- 5th grade: 45 tested – 82% at/above grade level on reading

04 – DeKalb County School District / Region 2

• **Druid Hills Cluster Alliance**

- Had a meeting on Monday (8/16) night – was 2+ hours long.
 - Similar questions about notifications, virtual learners, absences, etc.
 - Marshall and Trenton said that school have a lot of leeway to figure out best policies for schools.
 - Talked a lot about buses. Bus drivers very understaffed. Biggest crunch is in middle school – because they’re the last ones for pickup/drop-off.
 - Notification system for buses is in the works.
 - Facilities assessments
- **E-SPLOST VI**
 - Plan is that it will be on the ballot in November – probably \$500M+
 - The facilities assessments won’t be complete by election, so the guidance will be general about where SPLOST funds would be allocated.
 - Biggest push for the cluster is Druid Hills HS – hoping that the HS will get a portion of that funding.

05 – Facility Items

- **Comprehensive Master Plan / Facility Assessment**
 - Biggest monetary issue is the roof – which shouldn’t be the case because the roof is only 5 years old.

06 – PTA and Foundation Update

- PTA had a meeting yesterday.
 - PTA will work with Foundation to get more fans indoors for gym and lunchroom.
 - Also talk about more picnic tables for outside, but no decision on that.
 - Big question re: surveillance testing.
- Have talked about how to get more shade areas outdoors, given all the rain.
- Auction: Sent out a survey about an auction. Make sure to fill that out.

[End of Agenda]