



Fernbank Elementary Principal Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 2021
Time: 3pm
Location: TEAMS Virtual Meeting

Attendees

- Joan Ray, Principal
- Steve Langdon
- Barbara Christiansen
- Lindsay Wolf
- Josh Bornstein
- Rod Eggleston
- Jessica Lawrence (non-voting)

Teacher representatives:

- Ruth Haas
- Rebecca Vaughan

Non-Attendees:

- Keegan Russo
- Catherine Corser

A quorum of voting members were present.

00 – Welcome

- Approval of Agenda: 1st MOTION: Joan Ray, 2nd MOTION: Lindsay Wolf; VOTE: 8 YES / 0 NO - **APPROVED**

01 – PAC Items

- Open PAC Parent Position – Diana Shoemaker’s position is vacant; need to fill
- 2021-2022 PAC Elections – will start getting emails from district about dates
- PAC By Laws changes – Clusters – didn’t discuss

02 – Principal Report

- Back-To-School Update
 - F2F Student Counts and Cohorts – 500 kids back at school (out of 700)
 - 16 student max – The new 3-feet rule allows for more space. There are some classes that have to rotate overflow because they’re too big, but that’s working so far.
 - Lessons Learned
 - Quality for virtual kids isn’t as good as for those doing F2F. Better way to do it would be to have a full virtual classroom. When a few kids in a class are virtual and the others aren’t, they lose out.
 - Would really like to have a full virtual option in the fall.

- Buses are super crowded and parents are parking on Artwood instead of going through pickup line. May need a subcommittee on neighbor relations.
 - Plan for Fall – Return to 5 Day In-Person
 - High school and middle school will have virtual options, but so far, the elementary school level will not
 - Will be 5 days/week, face-to-face
- IB Re-certification
 - Went very well. Was a learning experience.
- Summer
 - There are sessions of summer camp scheduled.
 - There will be summer school.

03 – Students and Teachers

- Spring MAP Testing – Ends on the last day of school. A lot of people have opted out of MAP as well, so we won't have as much data on how the kids did this year.
- Milestone Testing Complete – Was easy this year, because so few kids tested and the Milestones didn't affect CCRPI
- Teacher Appreciation week next week
- Field Days during PE times
- Virtual Honor Day for 5th graders

04 – DeKalb County School District / Region 2

- Druid Hills Cluster Alliance – The PAC wants to send a letter to Trenton and Marshall with questions:
 - Will there be a virtual option for elementary students?
 - And if a student or teacher is sick, can they join virtually while they're sick?
 - Will there be After Care, and when will we know about it?
 - How do we fix overcrowding on the buses?
 - Will there still be rules of 3 feet of social distancing required in the fall? And a mask requirement? (This is very reassuring for parents)
 - Will playgrounds reopen? Can they bring balls and play games on the playground?
 - Mental health needs of students in the fall – will need more \$
 - **ACTION:** Send letter to district (to Trenton and Marshall)

05 – Facility Items

- Comprehensive Master Plan / Facility Assessment
 - There was a Town Hall meeting last week. County in doing master planning and facility assessment. They're behind schedule, so probably won't have a specific project list before November. So will be trying to put together chunks of work.
 - Planning on adding a renewal of SPLOST in November election (would be a continuation of existing sales tax SPLOST to build/repair schools)
 - They're assessing each school's facility -- given each a score for both facility and educational suitability
 - Fernbank's score: 86 for ed suitability (due to HVAC, electrical, other issues)

- There is an Appendix about Elementary core room maximum sizes – the assessment says there are 21 core rooms. Those can fit maximum class sizes that are even higher than the current sizes – so these are class sizes needed to fund. (in Appendix D on page 19)
 - E.g., Kindergarten – 21 kids, Grades 1-3 – 25 students (used to be 23), Grades 4-5 – 32 students (used to be 29), gifted – 23 kids, EIP – 22 kids
 - We have concerns about how high these class sizes are.

06 – PTA and Foundation Update

- Helping teacher appreciation week
- 5th grade team is working to celebrate 5th graders
- Foundation has been very supportive this year
- Jonna and Jackie are stepping down as presidents and Doug Rollins and Jessica Russo will be the presidents

[End of Agenda]