

Mill Creek Elementary SAC Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2014 at 4:00 PM

In attendance: Tina Nagel, Emily Anderson, Jessica Kendall, Synethia Brown, Nerissa Hartford, Robin Lightsey, Dana Murray, Donna Locke, Jamara Washington, Dana Goodson, Ruben Velasquez, Sharon Clark, Avita Beatty, Michelle Robinson, Kristen Scott, Kristena Dooley, Amanda Reidl, Joe Purvis, Tina Larson, Kristin Orr

Absent: Karen Mahan (excused), Rhonda Hammel (excused), Karin Thomas (excused), Loreal Greathouse (excused)

Meeting called to order by Tina Larson at 4:02 PM. Members were asked to review minutes from the September meeting. Dana Murray made the motion to approve. Jamara Washington seconded. All approved.

MFAS Overview

SAC Co-President, Kristin Orr, introduced Michelle Robinson, MCE Vice Principal. She joined us today to give us a detailed overview and explanation the new Math Formative Assessment System, a tool that will assist teachers in targeting areas in math where our students need the most help. Ms. Robinson has worked extensively with MFAS and brings to us the expertise and knowledge to assist our teachers and students in actively utilizing this program. MFAS brings to light those areas of misunderstanding where teachers can pinpoint problem areas and teach directly to the gaps in understanding. The students will be categorized into four groups: 1. Getting Started 2. Moving Forward 3. Almost There 4. Got It. Teachers will differentiate instruction based upon student's task results. This will support instruction and give immediate feedback. Use of MFAS correlates into almost 10 weeks of extra instruction time.

Budget Update:

Even though Rhonda Hammel was not present due to her baby being born ANY MOMENT, she still managed to send the budget to Kristin Orr.

Deposit 4,562.00 (\$5/student from the State)

Total balance of \$26,666.62

Tina Nagel motions to accept. Seconded by Avita Beatty.

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Reidl thanked all for a lovely evening at the Fall Festival. Seemed to go well. Great community support too. Kudos to PTA.

This year, Learning Night was moved up to accommodate parents' request. Unfortunately, we had such a low rate of participation. We need to rethink how to engage parents to encourage them to learn alongside their children. As a direct result of the low turnout in October, the Spring Learning Night (in February) is cancelled. Another idea.... Have parents come during the school day and participate in the classroom setting on a certain date. Come back to SAC meeting next month prepared to discuss further. Tina Larsen spoke about the Pacetti Bay Middle School math night and their low turnout, too. She emphasized the need for ideas to increase parent involvement. Kristina Dooley suggested the communication from the school was confusing, most likely due to the flyer mentioning FSA Testing for 3-5th grade families. Avita Beatty suggested letting parents know of the low turn-out and consequently causing the cancelling of our Spring Learning Night. Another parent suggested including a small group of parents that are interested in the Learning Night they can participate in the learning block of instruction (Math or ELA). Another parent suggested online video/website for parents to use the new math instructions or other areas of instruction.

Alert Now for the AM drop off line will go out tonight. Drop-off will now begin between 8-8:15. There will be adults outside waiting with students until the doors open at 8:10.

November 20 – National Parent Involvement Day. Worked with Resource teachers. Parents will sign-up and they can be involved in their child's resource day on that day. This will be a fun/unusual way to get involved in an area that parents are not normally involved in. This also is a way to highlight students' many talents. Parents must be a cleared volunteer. It's a 45-minute block of time, just resource.

Our Media Specialist, Abby Bergman, was not present to present her funds request. She will present at our next meeting.

The 5-Star book was brought in for SAC review.

Kristin and Tina attended the presentation of the School Improvement Plan at the District. Mrs. Reidl was pointed out by the Board for her compassion toward her students and school. They asked us to brainstorm, each SAC member, what we can do to help our MCE students. One idea: use of middle school volunteers that we have, can they tutor/book club.

Many parents have questioned why MCE a "B" school. Many reasons/factors. Diversified population, some getting started, some very advanced. Our getting started students didn't get the gains last year that they should have. Our school draws from a very large population/area, which lead to our diverse population. Our "sister" schools (Wards Creek and Palencia) draw from very small, almost secluded population. But these things won't hold us back. MCE takes on these challenges with no excuses. It's our reality.

Synethia Brown brought into discussion the tutoring opportunities in other locations. Another parent suggested a tutoring club.

Our meeting closed with Reidl charging members with the task of finding those opportunities that we may offer our students to further assist in their learning success.

Members were reminded of the next SAC meeting on November 18, 2014, at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.