

# Mill Creek Elementary SAC Meeting Minutes

**January 28, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Carolyn Ramsay, Amanda Riedl, Tracy Peska, Synethia Brown, Kristin Orr, Jennifer Yeabsley, Jo Saldana, Shannon Millican, Richard Booth, Avita Beatty, Sharon Clark, Loreal Greathouse, Tina Larson, Samantha Gardener, Laurie Hays, Nerissa Hartford

**Absent:** Gina Cirillo, excused; Joe Purvis, excused; Ronda Hammell, excused; Donna Locke, unexcused.

The meeting was opened and the members were asked to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Greathouse approved them and Clark seconded.

The Treasurer's report overview was given by Ramsay since Hammell was absent. The budget report was approved by Saldana and seconded by Peska.

Fund's request was received from Ms. Jen Burton to attend the Autism Symposium, a one day inservice that provides information to teachers on Autism. Guest speakers and topics vary from year to year. A motion was made to approve the application by Booth and Millican seconded.

Laurie Hays, St Johns County School District's Elementary Language Arts Program Specialist, explained the changes in curriculum with the adoption of the new Common Core standards. She shared a sample lesson with attendees; explaining that the new curriculum asks more from our children and requires the students to provide more thoughtful responses to questioning. To show the complexity of the standard and the educational shift, she compared two different tasks that students would have been asked to complete. One task was an example of teaching using the old standards and the other task uses our new standards. In the first task, students were asked to simply recall information. In the second task, students were asked to do a close reading, synthesize the information and collaborate together. She also said that there is an emphasis to incorporate Social

Studies and Science into reading nonfiction text. A handout about “Myths v. Facts About the Common Core Standards,” “Common Core Shifts” and a list Common Core Resources was provided to attendees.

Mrs. Riedl gave the SMART Goal and Principals Report. She explained that each grade level sets measurable goals for our students with regards to learning targets. The goal benchmarks differ based on grade level need. We use Discovery Ed Testing and STAR Testing to track the progress of our goals. Each grade level is attaining their SMART goals. Third and fourth grade are at a growth rate of a combined seven months. Fifth grade shows a rate of six months growth. Ninety-one percent of Kindergartens are reading on grade level. Eight-one percent of first graders are reading on grade level. Eight-five percent of second graders are reading on grade level. Teachers are using this data to make instructional decisions. Based on the tests we use there is a correlation to predictors for the FCAT in grades 3-5.

It was mentioned that Florida did adopt additional standards beyond the common core.

Our next meeting will be held February 25 from 4-5 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.