

Mill Creek Elementary SAC Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2014 at 4:00 PM

In attendance: Tina Nagel, Jessica Kendall, Synethia Brown, Nerissa Hartford, Dana Murray, Jamara Washington, Dana Goodson, Karin Thomas, Ruben Velasquez, Sharon Clark, Avita Beatty, Michelle Robinson, Kristen Scott, Amanda Reidl, Tina Larson, Kristin Orr, Business Partner Terri Overman from Davidson Realty, Karen Mahan, Kalli Burrell

Absent: Emily Anderson (excused), Kristina Dooley (excused), Karin Thomas (excused), Loreal Greathouse (excused), Robin Lightsey (unexcused), Donna Locke (unexcused)

Meeting called to order by Tina Larson at 4:05 PM. Members were asked to review minutes from the October 28 meeting. Tina Nagel made the motion to approve. Narissa Hartford seconded. All approved.

SAC/PTO Focus Group November Update:

*TAG (Teaching and Growing) Children's Museum Update: A hands-on interactive museum for young children & families. Groundbreaking to occur in early 2015. Location to be behind Target on US1.

*Social media Update: School Board rule 6.82 has been updated to reflect to show that each school has one twitter account and is using the Remind App. When discussed, our administration said we do not currently utilize twitter. Also SJCS D does NOT have a Facebook page and strongly cautions PTA/PTO as to the content that is allowed onto their page. The district also reminds PTA/PTO that contents can be requested by anyone through a public records request.

*The School Board update report needs and requests feedback from parents. They are asked to please respond by November 20 as to their 2015-2016 school calendar preference.

*Also our School Board has asked for a resolution that would allow for a Transitional Accountability Period for the new tests that would replace the FCAT. For these new test, Florida law states that a 3rd grader can be retained if they don't reach level 1 on the state test. The problem is that the county does not know what level 1 really is as of yet. In preparation of the new state test, the District is wanting to make sure that all parents are aware that there is a practice test on the District website, where they can follow the link. *The District's biggest concern is keeping up with growth, which will be addressed at the next Focus group on February 25, 2015.

Budget Update:

Budget was displayed on the overhead for all to view. No changes at all. Balance stands at 26,666.62.

SAC Suggestions & Ideas to Help MCES:

Tina Nagel suggested middle/high school involvement that would help them in achieving their volunteer hours. Unfortunately, it's more difficult to bring in the high school students because their hours are less conducive for assisting our elementary school students. Nerissa Hartford suggested a "Tutor Tuesday" or "Tutor Thursday" and to let it be known "far and wide" that at those particular days and at a specific time, there would be tutors available for use. These approved volunteers can be parents, middle school students, or high school students that want to volunteer their time. Another parent suggested reaching out to local colleges, where college students are required to earn volunteer hours. If we reach out to colleges and let it be known that we have a need for tutors, they could inform their students which could assist them in reaching goals for their own college coursework.

Introduction of New Resource/World of Science:

Kristin Orr introduced Ms. Peggy Whitworth, our World of Science teacher. She works with our Mill Creek teachers to give students a deeper understanding and hands-on experience with our science

curriculum. All year long they will work on experiments and journaling/recording observations. Our Science Cadre, composed of teachers from each grade level, meets with Mrs. Whitworth at regular intervals to help develop the science curriculum for each quarter.

Request for Funds:

Mrs. Tiller, Ms. Godair and Ms. Orr requesting (\$120/teacher, total of \$360) funds for training at the District. They'll collaborate and devise a way to develop a project to assist MCE in some capacity, which is, as of yet, undecided. In the Spring, they will put their plan in action. This entire project is designed to give teachers a clear-cut way to lead our school.

Mrs. Abby Bergmann requested funds to replace the 4 desktop computers that have broken (and will just cross her fingers hoping that the 4 other computers will "hang on"...but are more than likely about to "die", according to our IT people). These computers are used for online card catalogue system. There are at least 30 students at a time during each resource class, more with the older grades. The media budget would be completely depleted should she purchase these computers with her budget, which is why she is asking SAC for funds. She is going through the district to purchase these computers, which will be helpful should problems arise, Mrs. Bergmann can put in a "ticket". Committee members express concerns about the other 4 computers about to "die". Multiple SAC members want to give funds for all 8. Tina Nagel motioned. Ruben Velasquez seconded. All unanimously approved. She asked for funds for \$2700 for 4 Computers. SAC approved for 8 at the amount of \$5560.00!

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Reidl, Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Watson met with an MFAS representative today. Discovery Education (DE) is a tool used to assist evaluating student progress. K,1,2,3 all took tests in September. Grades 4 and 5 are just now taking their DE tests. 3rd

grade just took their 2nd round of DE. Mrs. Reidl showed their difference in the 3rd grade scores in DE math testing, from September to December. Marked improvement has been made. Reidl reported that across the District math is the focus for our county. The improvements made in 3rd are indicative of the hard work and improvements being made.

One parent suggested having student input by having a 4th or 5th grader come to our SAC committee meetings. These changes affect them and their school. Mrs. Orr and Mrs. Larsen suggested talking to Mrs. Serafin and possibly involving LEADS.

Members were reminded of the next SAC meeting on January 27, 2015, at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.