

# Mill Creek SAC Meeting Minutes

9/29/15 at 3:30

**In Attendance:** Karen Mahan, Donna Locke, Stephanie Godaire, Dana Goodson, Ruben Velazquez, Terri Overman, Synethia Brown, Jennifer Hoffman, Nicole Cubbedge, Christine Sumner, Philip Dugas, Samantha Gardner, Robin Lightsey, Christine Stephan, Michelle Conroy, Avita Beatty, Nerissa Hartford, Allison White, K. Arnold, Tina Larson

**Excused:** Tina Nagel, Tonia Platten-Klett

- Meeting called to order by Tina Larson at 3:30
- Kristin Arnold asked for May minutes to be approved
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve- Karen Mahan
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>- Ruben Velazquez
- 2015-2016 Dates approved (10/27/15, 11/17/15, 1/26/16, 2/23/16, 3/15/16, 4/26/15, 5/16/16). All meetings will be in Rm 520 in Filly Plaza. Tina asked that we email if we are unable to attend.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion- Donna Locke
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>- Ruben Velazquez
- Budget update- Kristin Dooley was at another meeting, but Kristin Arnold provided budget. \$20,374.84 Total FTE funds were received.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion- S. Brown
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>- C Sumner
- Request for Funds- Jen Burton- In charge of speech at the school. Burton asked to go to a training. Cost for one registration is \$679 (plus room). She would like to take a general education teacher who has a large population of speech assisted students to get the training as well. This would help ensure accountability. Discussion ensued about mileage and per diem, but committee was reminded that Burton asked for what was on the money request and for one additional teacher to attend. Request was approved.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion- Dana Goodman
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ruben Velazquez
- Principal's Report- Ms. Reidl- Celebrations included K and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest level of growth in DE math in the county. 1<sup>st</sup> graders- they were 94% proficient in Math. There is no FSA data at this time, so celebrations are only based on DE.

Growth to our population is quick and astronomical. Approximately 1100 kids with approximately 200 kindergarteners and over 210 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

We will continue to review the SIP at the next meeting and Mrs. Riedl will be presenting to the District the on October 7, 2015. It is difficult to know areas of need with no FSA data available at this time. Right now the area of focus is Science. There has been a creation of a science cadre and the focus is the scientific process. Every grade level will address this and there will be interactive notebooks which will be created based on the grade level. Right now students don't know what to do with the info we give them, so we are focusing on collecting data and making conclusions. This is based on FCAT data. Right now Science is once every 8 day and we need more.

Math is the biggest area of growth. Reading -80% K and 2<sup>nd</sup> on grade level.

28% Free and Reduced lunches (approx. 290 students this year). No matter what population we have, we need to teach with rigor. We have high expectations for all students.

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk to School- great response from parents. Mill Creek was chosen for a visit from Mr. Josephson, the founder of Character Counts, but the visit was cancelled. Still, this is an honor. Walk will occur on 10/7/15.

Mill Creek also received \$500 for the Character Counts 5K Run because Mill Creek had the most participants. In the first Annual Character Counts Olympics, Mill Creek Team took 1<sup>st</sup> place. We also received \$1300 from the PTA's shoe drive and we wanted to give back to the community so the money was donated to the café in order to make sure every students has a hot meal.

- **District Presentation for ½ cent Sales tax Referendum**-Nicole Cubbedge and Mike Degustis Special Referendum is due to growth. We have grown by 45% in the past 10 years and the next 10 years there is a 47% growth projection. It is estimated that 20 new schools will be needed. Currently we are increasing by 800-900 students per year which equates to one school every year. The two new schools opened already have relocatable classrooms. Relocatable classrooms represent a short term solution. We lease them for approximately \$191,000 a month. Currently, we can return those on lease in hopes to replace them with more permanent structures.

Our county is funded on silos- Capital and Operating. Operating funds are determined by FTE (student numbers) and money is given from the state. Capital funds pay for consistent costs, (maintenance, technology, buses, equipment, new construction, security, etc.) Many people are saying salaries need to be cut, but this comes from operating funds, not capital.

In 2008-2009, tax breaks took away ½ million from the schools. The recession hit, property values decreased, taxes decreased, and that led to less money collected.

People also wonder about lottery funds (less than 2.75% of total state operating budget), impact fees (not intended to pay full cost and this will only come once homes are built) and school concurrency (only helps if there is no capacity, but does not address backlog from pre-2008) but these are not solutions that will make a significant impact on our situation.

SJCSD has been trying to cut back: only 3.18% spend on district admin; \$4.9 mil saved by refinancing school construction, avoided energy costs and advocated for full restoration of tax money.

We are currently 2 schools behind and yet we are still growing. We need at least 50 new relocatable classrooms and if we lease, we gain no assets. We are also limited in our ability to borrow.

½ Cent Sales Tax- only in effect for 10 years. Will generate approx. \$13 million a year (\$150 mil over 10 years). Limited to first \$5,000 of purchases. All revenue will stay in St. Johns County. Surrounding counties have 7% sales tax. Needed to hold a special election because funds are

released in January. If this passes, money can start coming in this next fiscal year. If we waited until primaries, we would have to wait until January 2017.

Cubbedge and Degutis shared the tentative project list which includes new construction (4 new schools, 2 school expansions), school maintenance and improvements, technology and infrastructure improvements, and security.

If vote does not pass, we maintain status quo= more relocatable classrooms, more debt, more rezoning to adjust for population. Last resort is double sessions.

- Ms. Reidl introduced Mr. Pentano who replaced Joe Purvis for transportation.
- Motion to dismiss
  - 1<sup>st</sup> to motion-Avita Beatty
  - Ruben Velazquez

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.