

School Governance Council Minutes

November 4, 2015

3:50-5:02

Members in Attendance: Garrett Abelkop, Andy Anderson, Tim Corrigan, Scott Doll, Deb Fulghum, David Harris, Tim Reeder, Madison Rysdon, Kathy Smith, and Charles Thomas. 8 voting members present of 9 possible voting members. Others in attendance: Danielle Morris, Pamela Whitlock.

Meeting was facilitated by Deb Fulghum, and it was called to order at 3:50.

David Harris made a motion to approve the agenda; Garrett Abelkop seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Deb Fulghum asked for any changes to the minutes from October 7th. David Harris made a motion to approve the agenda with changes; Garrett Abelkop seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Principal's Report.

Mr. Corrigan commended Ms. Fulghum for being awarded the Order of the Cougar by Mr. Duncan for her leadership in SGC; this is highest award our school can offer.

Kina Champion, Mr. Corrigan, and Ms. Gracey visited Webb Bridge to observe their advisory model. The groups at WBMS meet twice a week: to do grade recovery and to do an advisory lesson on a Social Emotion Learning subject such as communication (developed by consultants from the seed fund). Ms. Christopher, our CAP, is working with Ms. Gracey to visit some other local high schools with advisory programs like Cambridge, Centennial, and Alpharetta. We are also exploring neighbors in Forsyth about ways to schedule the advisory sessions. Some schools use a modified block schedule to accommodate this. We are still investigating if these advisory programs are making a difference and how this is being measured (which will be important for our Seed Fund application). This will be done by the end of November.

The build out for G125 is in contract right now; construction should begin by January. Classroom modification for the other two labs (G122-127) has been ordered. Yolanda Bell will split the cost with us of the modifications. Ms. Whitlock shared with the group some of the ideas regarding the decoration and set up of the Design IT classrooms.

Open for Public Comment

Ms. Morris expressed support for the PE RFF.

RFF is posted on the school homepage along with a feedback form to continue to seek feedback. It is also available in the front office along with a box. Mr. Abelkop shared the comments received thus far, all of which have been favorable to the RFF.

Garrett indicated that Kina Champion had given some feedback about some modifications to our RFF to align more accurately with the state requirements.

Strategic Plan Overview

Deb reviewed the overview of the Strategic Plan to remind members of the long term outcomes, goals, and initiatives. When we submit seed funds and RFFs, they need to align with these long term outcomes. This plan is in place this year and next. She stressed the importance of each member, contributing actively and taking initiative. We have several key members rolling off next year, so we need to make sure we are in a strong position to continue the good work. She recommended that members invite parents who are passionate about the school to come to meetings to observe.

Seed Funds Update

- David Harris reviewed the budget for the Seed Fund for Design IT! We have a request to reallocate some of the money from original proposal that called for programming books to pay instead for Arduino Boards (small circuit boards to allow students to download code and to manipulate them; they can be reassembled and reused year by year) and Finch robots (robots that students can code/control). Both would allow hands-on application of the core standards of the classes. Since they can share these between classes/teachers, 10 each would be sufficient. Ms. Whitlock explained how they can be used in the class. Dr. Lee and Ms. Whitlock also need some additional memory on their laptops to match the power of what the students are using. They have conferred with Ms. Pobee, and there are some clear gaps between what they have and what they need.

We may run a little under budget overall; should that happen, we can re-evaluate if we need any additional supplies for the courses in May.

David proposed that we approve the changes to the budget. Tim Corrigan made a motion to accept the proposal; Garrett Abelkop seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

- David next went over the Seed Fund application for the counseling/advisory plans. There are about 11 different sections of the application that need to be addressed, ranging from description of the process, how it will be measured, etc. The main task we have to do is explore engagingschools.org. We need someone to get in contact with someone at that company to find out what they can do for us to get that mentoring program up and running, in terms of costs, and broken down into time frames, training etc. Tim Reeder will spearhead the research working with Scott Doll; Kathy Smith and Garrett Abelkop will take on finessing the draft. We need to have this draft completed by Thanksgiving. Tim, Scott and David will get the draft to Kathy by the 19th.

Announcements

Mr. Cliff Jones will be reaching out to each SGC member to discuss your thoughts on the school, the direction the school is headed, etc. as they make final decisions regarding a final hire for our principal here.

Adjournment

Garrett Abelkop made a motion to adjourn; Tim Reeder seconded it, and the meeting adjourned at 5:02.

Next meeting: December 2, 2015, 3:50 in Room A101