

School Governance Council Minutes

March 8, 2017

Members in Attendance: Tim Corrigan, Kathy Smith, Garrett Abelkop, Matt Mihordea, Dilip Tunki, Charles Thomas, Kyleigh Slocum, Dorsey Sammataro, Francesca Dellasala; 7 voting members present of 9 possible voting members. Also in attendance, Kelly Parker, Ed Williamson, Leslie Baker, LeAnn Greer, Vincent Daniele, Karen Richardson, Kamini Anand, and Kaidar Heafetz.

Meeting was facilitated by Kathy Smith, and it was called to order at 4:05 PM.

Garrett Abelkop made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 8th, 2017 meeting with no changes; Kyleigh Slocum seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Approval

On February 8, the Budget Committee met with the CHS book keeper and principal to review the 2017-2018 CHS budget. About \$20,000 were reserved to cover the cost of our 3.5 professional development days, due to cafeteria costs, transportation, etc. Our school placed \$75,000 in reserve for a full teacher, since student count estimates for the 2017-2018 year are a little lower than this year. We opened up a vacancy in PE for a cheerleader coach by creating an Athletic Director position. The way money is distributed to departments next year will be different. Each department will get \$100 per teacher with additional funds attainable depending on specific needs. The administration would like to offer AP Institute training to every teacher if they are interested.

Kathy Smith made a motion to approve, by majority vote, the budget recommendations presented to Fulton County Schools on behalf of our students, staff and community stakeholders for 2017-2018, Dorsey Sammataro seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

The following minutes were taken for a joint-session of CHS and TRMS.

Matt Mihordea made a motion to approve the agenda; Kyleigh Slocum seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

RFF update

The goal is to have at least one joint professional development day during which we'll be working together on our Strategic Plans. The CHS days are planned for September 1, October 11 (half day), February 15, and March 8 of the 2017-2018 year.

Since all TRMS students attend CHS now, we essentially have only one feeder middle school, so we want to make a renewed effort to increase communication between schools, to plan together, and to remedy any problems that arise as early as possible. Some TRMS students already take high school level classes

on the CHS campus, and we're looking at more ways to further connect the schools. A new initiative has been to administer the PSAT to 8th graders.

One additional point was that there is a STEM campus opening soon in Fulton County, so all schools will need to redouble their efforts to remain attractive. Our schools are both very strong, but we'll have to continue to look for ways to market our strengths in the face of new competition.

Greenhouse project overview

We reviewed the greenhouse project with the TRMS SGC members and expressed our goals to enrich the science curriculum, to expand to STEAM curriculum integration, and went over many applications such as nutrition, engineering, project-based learning, etc. We're also looking for ways to use the greenhouse to enrich TRMS science education.

Discussion of steps for community input for strategic planning process

Our discussion was limited because we cannot start our strategic plans until the Fulton County strategic plan is finished. We expect our school strategic plans will be simplified and streamlined because we'll have to base them on the Fulton County plan. Kathy Smith suggested a community survey with shared data between TRMS and CHS. Ed Williamson suggested focus groups instead of surveys because our community receives so many surveys already, and a focus group can give us more detailed information. Leslie Baker suggested a community forum night to promote discussion and more valuable, specific feedback from the community. Kathy Smith also suggested a joint committee between CHS and TRMS for the purpose of working on surveys, focus groups, community forum night, etc. and incorporating that feedback into our strategic plans.

Review of current strategic plans and discussion

All CHS and TRMS SGC members were given copies of both school's 2014-2017 strategic plans. The plans were very much in line with one another, and several committee members remarked how closely aligned our concerns, goals, and strategies are. This was encouraging because it's clear that our two schools can work well together in the coming years.

Ed Williamson raised a major concern with reading skills; Tim Corrigan agreed that CHS has the same concern. Reading Lexile level needs to be at a certain minimum level in order to truly have college and profession ready students. STAR testing scores are being used more and more to identify literacy Lexile levels and we are using this data as an early intervention tool for bottom 30% students.

Grading practices is also a concern that we're looking at, mostly in terms of consistency across the school. We want to support developmental learning and give students the skills they need so they can become better learners, regardless of subject area. This is an on-going discussion, because there are many positive and negative outcomes with each grading practice philosophy. Consistency across all subject areas is not necessarily an appropriate goal, but we do have some survey data that shows we have room for improvement.

Motion to adjourn by Leslie Baker, seconded by Charles Thomas at 5:12pm.

Dates for Upcoming Meetings

April 12, 2017 at 3:50 in A101