

## North Springs Charter School Governance Council Meeting- Minutes

10/26/2015

5:04 PM- Call to order by M. Binderman, No Quorum

### Absences

Jenori Burroughs

Carrie Carreras

Dr. Genoulia Johnson

### Agenda Topics

#### **Action Items**

1. No Quorum yet @ 5:07pm- only 4 voting members
2. 5:10 pm- 2 members joined the meeting, Quorum reached
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Changes- Issac Chambers –correct name spelling
  - b. Motion made by C. Ciepluch to accept minutes, Seconded by C. Lupiani. Passed
4. Approval of Agenda –Motion made by C. Lupiani to accept agenda, Seconded by S.Michael. Passed

#### **Public Comments**

1. Concern #1 (a teacher)- teacher retention. We are concerned that the teachers come here and leave. We are tired and exhausted. The 7 period is surface learning. 6 periods would allow for a deeper learning situation. We need to get on this now.
2. Concern #2- (a teacher) We have lost 75% of teachers. We are in non-compliance with RTI. Suggestion- 7 periods with a study hall as one period. Or 6 period with a zero period for magnet students- gives some options.
3. Concern #3 (a teacher)- the 26 credit requirement is an issue. 23 credits would be more manageable.

#### **Principal Transition**

1. Dr. LaCava, Area Superintendent for Central Learning, presented a power point presentation on the principal selection process. He said high school principals are hard to find.  
Questions/Concerns from meeting members:
  - a. selecting a principal from the local area
  - b. background checks
  - c. the way the process runs and how much input the Governance Council has
  - d. how many people are in the pool, how to get others in pool
  - e. time frame
  - f. will probably be an interim principal

- g. Concern about interview process, M. Binderman asked if the Council should vote on interviewers or will they be recommended.

### **Request for Flexibility /RFFs**

1. M.Binderman explained the RFF process and her concern that one person does not make the final decision.
  2. C. Clarke spoke to the RFFs that we don't need a wavier for:
    - a. Certification- there is a new policy that allows school to hire folks with content specialty and experience.
    - b. Counselor Prep Time-there is additional pay for extra time for counselors
- C.Clarke made deadline dates clear...Nov.4 post RFFs for public comment. Dec. 10 is the final date
- a. **Physical Fitness Wavier**- NS should offer what the other Fulton County Schools do, but it's OK to keep the waiver as is.
  - b. **Early Release Dates**- this is a standard ask. Waving school day and instructional time. We asked for 6 early release days.
  - c. **Course Requirement/Magnet Schedule**- this really is a Credit Requirement Wavier- this is a revised one. We need a magnet wavier, based on the amount of time during the day
  - d. **Course Credit Promotion** – To graduate, 23 credits are required for District, 26 credits required for North Springs. Clarity was needed at the District level about graduation requirements. Council needed to vote on 23 credits requirement or keeping 26 credit requirement to graduate. There was discussion about changing requirement to 23 credits OR honor graduates with seals and cords. M.Binderman made a recommendation to invite a panel of teachers and counselors to give the Council more information.
    - Option 1- go with 26 credit requirements with exemptions or Option 2- change to 23 credits (no wavier), but chords and seals would be used to designate levels of accomplishment. I.Schweiger motioned for Option 1 to keep the 26 credit requirement, C.Dinberg seconded the motion. Voted and Passed.
    - C.Dinberg made a motion to develop a subcommittee to research and present information to the Council concerning the pros and cons of the credit options . I.Schweiger seconded it. M. Binderman made an amendment to inform our strategic plan. M. Binderman called for a vote for the subcommittee to report back at the December meeting and tie information to the strategic plan. C. Ciepluch (with the A. Kimbrel's help) volunteered to chair the subcommittee. Binderman made a motion that the total number of any committee will be 12, and that it should reflect students, teachers, staff, parents and community members. S. Hochman strongly recommended having at least 3 teacher committee members. Motion was seconded by C. Lupiani. Vote- passed.
- Exemption Process**- A. Kimbrel explained how the 26 credit requirement worked before with an exemption. Counselors meet with students and if an exemption is needed, it would go to the board, but now that we are a council, the process is different.

**New Exemption Process**-C. Ciepluch made a motion that the new exemption process should be that the guidance department should review all juniors transcripts, they will put forth to assistant principal those that don't look likely to meet the 26 credits, per GA graduation requirements. Magnet students who do not meet the 26 credits will not be eligible for magnet seal. The motion was seconded by C. Lupiani. Motion passed.

## Other

- e. Class Size Wavier- this one was pulled. M.Binderman mentioned that classes have been combined when we did not have teachers available. So a large number of students are in one class. We need a wavier for that. C. Clarke said these things are important so she can explain to the District what waivers are needed. M. Binderman clarified that some waivers were not pulled, but that they can be resurrected.
- f. Discuss how to post the RFFs. The 3 page proposal /final form needs to be completed and posted for public comment. Second round is to solidify them. Postings must be done by Wednesday, Nov. 4.
- g. **Vote on record to bring the 4 RFFs forward**

C. Dinberg made a motion to post the 4 RFFs so the community can study them (**Physical Fitness Wavier, Early Release Dates, Course Requirement/Magnet Schedule, Course Credit Promotion**). Seconded by I.Schweiger. Vote passed

## Public Comment

1. Comment (Teacher)- we believe in Rigor, but we are exhausted. We love the school. I think you can do 26 credits with 6 periods. We can't keep pushing teachers out the door. When you do invite us, invite teachers at a good time when they can focus and contribute (right after school). Exemptions are fine, put the responsibility on the students. I am asking whatever we do, to keep teachers here.
2. Comment (community member)- this council stuff has nothing to do with parent involvement. Who can come at 5pm to listen and not speak until 7pm? People need to make comments on 26 credits. I am concerned with all councils. After this year, we are not having outside students here anymore. Too bad Dr. Ruiz is leaving. We are a science and math magnet, but our scores are lowest in science. Don't forget the rigor that we planned. Remember the council.
3. Comment (substitute teacher)- I suggest to keep doing the meetings as we did before. The public comment is baloney. You should have your discussions and then call a meeting so people can come and make comments.

7:24pm Public Comment Period Closed

**Other Items**

C.Dinberg wants to put a public meeting date on the calendar about the principal selection. Faculty input and invite the public to discuss. C.Clarke thinks it's a good idea and we should share that with Dr. LaCava.

Comment from C.Clarke about those not showing up for council meetings... if someone misses 75% of meetings, they can get voted off and a seat opens. M. Binderman asks how we fill the empty seat because the process is not clear in the handbook. People can be appointed to open seats.

7:30 pm I.Schweiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, C. Dinberg seconded. Passed.