

# Durbin Creek Elementary School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Start: 4:00 End: 4:42

**Welcome and call to order:** Brenda Pence, chairperson.

**Review of September 2017 minutes:** Motions made, approved.

**SAC Members:** Bindi Patel, Sherri Kuczewski were voted in as SAC members. Renee Labaw removed from roster to meet staff/public membership ratio requirement.

**Principal's report:** Ms. Fuller shared presentation of our School Improvement Plan as given to school board and other administrators. *Regarding what went well during last school year:* PLC (Professional Learning Conference) went well—much collaboration between teachers, determining most important standards. Assessments can help indicate which teachers do best in certain areas; we then have them share their successful methods with other educators. Computer access has greatly improved with additional ipads and newer computers in K-4. Next target is new computers for 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Family events last year went well. Mad Science Night this fall was a success with increased participation.

*Disparities and next steps:* we need to do better with struggling learners (lowest 25%) in both ELA and Math. We will use diagnostics to target instruction to these students and determine how best to meet their needs. We had a dip in Science scores, so we will focus on Science achievement as well. To help 5<sup>th</sup> graders do well, we must start with them in earlier grades.

Ms. Fuller shared that state-mandated physical education requirement has taken away instructional minutes. We have increased our P.E. minutes by adding a coach, allowing the classroom teacher time to teach science. District has improved recent funding from sales tax, so next year teachers will get new computers, with current teacher computers added to student pool.

Ms. Fuller has asked for security cameras. Purchase and installation have been approved.

*What makes us unique:* community and family; after-school activities, clubs. She hopes to add a triathlon club. Ms. Fuller feels there is an energized focus on ALL students, making sure all can learn at high levels.

Dr. Nguyen asked what levels need to improve? *Answer:* Level 1's and 2's seem to be staying there---we want them to show growth. With I-ready we will be able to see a predicted proficiency in order to address those students predicted not to increase proficiency. Ms. Fuller reiterated that our three areas of focus are Science, our lowest quartile of students, and technology access.

Mr. Mack expressed concern about Common Core (simple vs. multi-step). *Answer:* we use Florida Standards (we don't refer to it as "Common Core") and a "curriculum map" that gives teachers a guideline on how long it should take to teach a concept. Teams are coming up with assessments. The local District and State determine much of what must be taught. Our teachers are encouraged to use many different ways to the same end. Also said have considered Professional Development for parents to understand the process.

Mr. Mack commented further about method: students seem to be evaluated on method, rather than on correct answers. Ms. Holtz shared that she has seen that teachers recognize the difficulty, and have made themselves available to help students with confusion. Ms. Jones shared that for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, it has helped the students to understand why, not just the answer. It's about "mental math." Mr. Mack: engaging families via Discovery Education website is somewhat

difficult. He added he would like to see something that addresses patriotism. Ms. Chris offered opinion that DE is just to teach Science, not patriotism, which is modeled during pledge and at home, and taught in Social Studies and at home.

Ms. Fuller added that with about \$25K remaining in accounts, we have been able to send teachers to PLC.

Funds request: \$2500 for PLC registration for this school year. Motions made and seconded to spend SAC funds for PLC conference.

**Review of by-laws:** changes in by-laws discussed. Motions made to approve changes.

Ms. Fuller went on to share that current enrollment is 745 (753 with Pre-K students). We have hired two new associate teachers (2nd and K). We are definitely growing. We still have one empty classroom at the moment.

**Next meeting:** November 21, 2017. 4:00 p.m.

**Members present:** Angela Fuller, Brenda Pence, Ashley Schaefer, Ann Nguyen, Jan Phillips, Jennie Jones, Kara Bird, Karen Chris, Kristin Efrat, Lindsey Waggoner, Mary Ann Holtz, Mike Anderson, Rachel Hughes, Teri Heath, Troy Mack, Bindi Patel, Sherri Kuczewski.

**Members absent:** Christine Gonzalez, Melissa Guthrie.

**Guests:** Changying Yang, Lorrie Cosgrove (District Buddy), Michelle Sharp, Kim Miller, AP.