

Durbin Creek Elementary School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Start: 4:02

End: 4:48

Welcome and call to order: Brenda Pence

Membership: Lindsey Waggoner has resigned (removed from SAC roster). Motions made and seconded to vote in Sherri Kuczewski as co-chairperson for SAC.

Review October 2017 SAC minutes: motions made; approved with correction.

Principal's report: Ms. Fuller advised that Kimberly Miller is being transferred to Cunningham Creek effective after the winter break. She thanked Ms. Miller for her many contributions to DCE. Ms. Miller extended thanks to faculty and parents, expressing appreciation to all. Laverne Walker from Southwood Elementary will be joining DCE as our Assistant Principal. Changes happen quickly!

Collaborative Partnering: Ms. Fuller reviewed the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process, which includes staff, local community and business. What is a Collaborative Partnership? Ms. Fuller shared a Powerpoint presentation, explaining what it is, how it works. Ms. Fuller wants it to be a "two-way street" in that we expect to help our business partners as well as receiving various forms of support from them. We will promote the partners, and they support us in many ways.

Endeavors can be intellectual, pooling common assets and skills, to make DCE the best school it can be. This applies to SAC members as well--*people* collaborate, not organizations. And through it all, we can agree to disagree if necessary. Trust is extremely important when sharing ideas and opinion. Also, when the District has in-service trainings, Ms. Fuller invited any parents to attend any in-service trainings for teachers.

Ms. Fuller shared a short video re: public school system, what are core values, etc. which pointed out that 1) all children should have access to free public education and 2) all children *can* learn—and should achieve standard learning requirements.

Ms. Fuller reiterates that at DCE we *are* focusing on ALL students; striving to assure that all are successful. Teachers collaborate about student achievement and results.

School Improvement Plan(SIP): we don't know if/when accreditors will visit us. We will determine if our own observations match theirs. Ms. Fuller went on to review SIP goals: 1)focus on lowest-performing 25% in ELA and Math, helping them achieve theirgrade level; 2)Science achievement—our 5th graders showed some need. We attribute part of that to having five new 5th grade teachers who are less familiar with standards. Also, there is realization that 5th graders need to have learned science cumulatively as they progress through the lower grades. Teachers are being observed during a Science lesson to assure coverage of standards; 3) improved Technology access and use. Limited technology usage has been improved with additional devices now available to the classrooms. All classrooms in grades 3, 4, and 5 will have six laptops that will accommodate our software. We are getting smart panel interactive TV for the media center, and goal is to have one for each house.

*Parent comment:*State collaboration regarding curriculum should be between the parents and teachers, not from the state, as we can best determine what works best. Ms. Fuller agreed would be great, we are bound to follow protocol.

Parent question: How can we focus on each student with Common Core? *Answer:* Ms. Fuller answered that with differentiation (adjusting teaching process to students' learning style) teachers at DCE (with PLC process) are determined to grow our students. Again, our goal: students show one year's growth. We don't use any "tool" exclusively.

Parent report: Mr. Mack asked for 5 minutes for a report on I-Ready and gave out some information if anyone would like to research; provided references that can be reviewed. He shared that there are also some presentations on youtube, etc. He shared concern about I-ready—that it is highly correlated to Common Core. Gave example of math processes (more steps, partial answers), which are hard for parents to monitor I-ready does provide reports, and information is kept (what is it used for in later years?). Concern is that I-ready assessments could drive instruction, rather than the teacher.

Ms. Fuller responded that our I-ready is based on FL state standards. Testing is customized to the state standards. We (at DCE) don't allow a program to drive our instruction—teachers use many other methods and resources. Ms. Chris advised that teacher can pull up information upon request to determine needs of individual students. Ms. Fuller added that our district does *not* use I-ready to predetermine a child's career path.

Dr. Nguyen shared that SJCPSD affords many opportunities, and reminded that it is parents' responsibility to share and expose their child to many possibilities. She challenged that our elementary parents will see this more at the next levels of education (middle school, high school). She encouraged all to attend events at the secondary schools such as open houses, etc. She has been pleased with the many options available in this county, and encouraged all to take advantage of the options available. With a child in all three levels, she has discovered this.

Ms. Fuller repeated that we focus on *all* children. Mr. Mack complimented the STEAM programs. 1st grade and 5th grades students are doing STEM activities tomorrow. "STEAM" stands for Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

Next meeting: January 16, 2017. 4:00

Members present: Angela Fuller, Brenda Pence, Ashley Schaefer, Ann Nguyen, Jan Phillips, Jennie Jones, Karen Chris, Kristin Efrat, Melissa Guthrie, Mike Anderson, Teri Heath, Troy Mack, Bindi Patel, Sherri Kuczewski

Members absent: Christine Gonzalez, Kara Bird, Mary Anne Holtz, Rachel Hughes,

Guests: Christie Ball, Lorrie Cosgrove (District Buddy), Kimberly Miller, AP.