Durbin Creek Elementary School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Start: 4:00 End: 4:35

Welcome and call to order: Brenda Pence

Review December 2017 SAC minutes: motions made: approved

Principal’s report: Welcome to new AP. Laverne Walker. Very pleased and excited, looking forward to working together. New staff: 4th grade will get a new teacher as Ms. Osborne stepped away to be with her family. Ms. Stacy Kinney will be joining us to cover that position. Ms. Hurtak will be leaving in February as her husband has a job opportunity elsewhere. We are in a good place for the changes taking place next school year with. We had 15 new students with the start of January. Expect growth to continue. 772 at the moment. Many schools within a small area. Does not expect the rezoning to impact DCE as much as some other schools.

“PLC” update: good news---PLC conference will be in Jacksonville. St. Johns County is guaranteeing 500 spots for SJCSD teachers. Very excited about the presenters---will be in May after school out. DCE is sending 21 teachers (District paying for 3 of them; we have money from church to cover others). Fee is now less than last year. It is a 3-day conference, and the collaboration is wonderful. The trainings are about collaboration, looking at data, and how to best use the information provided by data, in order to improve teaching/learning. Focus is how to serve ALL kids, “no excuses” for non-learning. All can achieve at high levels. Conference goal is to give tools for achieving this. Success and access for all students at all grade levels.

Has nothing to do with CC assessments. Teachers create the assessments. What do we want them to learn. How will we teach them. How do we know they learned. What to do if they do not learn.

Ms. Chris gave an example of teacher-created process using the Being a Reader reading curriculum. Phonics is part of the curriculum.

Ms. Walker shared positive use of PLC---if child knows it, we don’t have to spend time reviewing it. Go on to something at the next level. Meeting the children where they are.

Mr. Mack continued to express concern about use of phonics.

Ms. Bird assured that our teachers are very aware and attuned to a child’s phonetic awareness.

Ms. Fuller agreed. Ms. Mack suggested we don’t teach phonics ,even though assured that we do. Ms. Jones explained how the 2nd grade reinforces phonics skills.

Ms. Bird and Ms. Chris had some suggestions.

Comments: what are they building across the street? Not sure---storage unit.

As we get closer to accreditation timeline, will share results. All documents have been submitted. Don’t know we’ll be visited. Audits of files have looked good.