

DURBIN CREEK SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting minutes for Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Start: 4:06 PM End: 5:03 PM

Recorder: Dara Giddings, SAC member and parent

**Welcome and Call to Order:** 4:06 PM by Teri Heath

**Review of February 2023 Minutes:** Correct Boyapolly to Boyapally. Motion to Approve: Jean Kepner, Seconded: Indra Boyapally

**District Focus Group Meeting Update – Shannon Phillips**

- Forson talked about legislative updates.
  - Temporary Teaching Certificate extended from 3 years to 5 years.
  - ½ Penny sales tax and millage rate increases needed to get better teachers
  - New media collection policies go into effect in July.
  - Asking for volunteers for Media Objection Committee
- Ink was there with updates on scholarships and teacher supplies.

**SAC Funds Request Presentations:**

Wendy Napier – MysteryScience.com - \$1395 for full access

- Science Program would benefit the entire school.
- Supplements current science curriculum with hands on lessons.
- School District provides Generation Genius, but that program is only watching other perform the experiments.
- Mystery Science provides step by step narration with experiments that teacher can have the students do in real life. Also has 5-minute lessons if teachers are short on time.
- Has a feature to show how lessons related to the standard assessments that students take.

Questions/Comments:

- Indra Boyapally: How easy is it for teachers to learn? How long are the lessons?
  - Napier: Very user friendly and teachers can also break the lessons out into multiple class periods if they do not have the time to do a full lesson in one class period. The site is also very searchable to allow teachers to find lessons that work with what they are teaching in class.
  - McCormick: We always do a full training on new software. I was able to observe a lesson in the classroom and the conversations that students were having about the lesson was amazing.
- Ashley Bunnell: This seems like it is also not very stressful on the teachers either.
  - Napier: It is as in depth or as simple as the teacher wants it to be.
- Dara Giddings: Does this program allow for at home use?

- Napier: No, this is local to the school and not a sharable program, but does already have the infrastructure built in, just in case of a Covid type situation.
- McCormick: How do they account for the summer months? Is it prorated?
  - Napier: I can look into that.
- Christine Gurdak: This definitely seems like something that would have value to the school.
- McCormick: We also have a new science guru for the district that we would ask to look into it.
- Indra Boyapally: Does the program come with supplies?
  - Napier: It does not include the supplies, but I have been able to do several of the lessons very inexpensively with supplies from the dollar store. A lot of the lessons are a lot of print and prep work, and articulation. Teachers can also ask parents if they are able to donate supplies.

Motion to Vote: Indra Boyapally, Seconded: Ashley Bunnell

Approved Unanimously

Teri Heath – Ozobot - \$2090 for classroom set of 18

- Ozobots are a coding robot that uses lines on paper as commands to perform specific operations.
- We were able to borrow a set from the school district and all of the students enjoyed working with them, but the set had to be returned after one month.
- It is designed for students K – 12 and is very engaging and versatile.
- You can program the bots using an app or using markers that come with them and has over 600 lessons available as part of the classroom kit.
- Classroom kit includes 18 bots, markers, protective sleeves, and chargers for each bot.
  - Some classes do have more than 18 students, but students work very well when they collaborate on the lessons.
- If approved at this meeting, we might be able to have them by the end of April.

Motion to Vote: Dara Giddings, Seconded: Indra Boyapally

Approved Unanimously

**Principal's Report with Mrs. McCormick:**

- Events are wrapping up for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Teachers have until the end of the week to input grades.
- A Kindergarten teacher will be returning from her maternity leave after the break.
- Movie night on February 24 was tons of fun.
- There is a Talent Show tonight.
- PTO is planning their Space Jam event on April 1
  - Lots of volunteers will be needed for this event.
  - On a Saturday due to how much set up time is needed.
- No School on Friday, March 10 and students will come back from break on March 20

- We have hired all of our K-3 tutors using grant money and this has been a huge help, especially for kids right on the “bubble”. Has been a lot of useful supplemental practice.
- Our Resource team is amazing and has been pulling students during their (the resource team’s) break to help practice reading.
- The next testing period starts in April.

**Questions/Comments:**

- Dara Giddings: With the increase in student enrollment, are we adding any additional resources or benefits for next year?
  - McCormick: We don’t know yet. We projected high for this year and as of today are at 999 students and expect to be over 1000 at the end of the month.
- Dara Giddings: Any update on the electronic notice board?
  - McCormick: It is connected to electricity, but we are having a lot of technical issues with it.
- Dara Giddings: There are a lot of students/parents at the Julington side Biker Walker who do not seem to know the procedures. The signage has either faded or fallen down – can we replace that or find some way to help make everyone aware?
  - McCormick: Thanks for bringing that up, we can look into it.
- Indra Boyapally: Tagging onto that the CSA Officer for the car line is still not doing a great job.
  - McCormick: We have had the district out to talk about the car line, and there is not a good solution that is not extremely expensive. There would be a high cost to change the traffic pattern, but we are still looking for a solution.
- Tarra Lowe: Is Kindergarten registration open?
  - McCormick: Yes! Please let your neighbors know that they can start registering for next year.

**SAC Meeting Date:** Tuesday, April 11 at 4:00 PM

**Adjournment:** Motioned: Indra Boyapally Seconded: Ashley Bunnell

**Members Present:**

**In person:** Teri Heath, Wendy Napier, Ashley McCormick, Dara Giddings, Indra Boyapally, Ashley Bunnell

**Virtual:** James Chen, Jean Kepner, Jill Tor, Mandi Kinzig, Carol Hardison, Keysha Dixon, Christine Gurdak, Shannon Phillips, Tarra Lowe, Danielle Jackson, Kyle Cribbs

**Guests:**

**Virtual:** Jenelle Dunathan, Amy Carnes