

Durbin Creek Elementary School Advisory Council

Meeting minutes for Tuesday November 9, 2021

Start 4:00 End 4:30 PM

Welcome and call to order: Teri Heath

Approval of the October 2021 SAC meeting minutes: Approved- J. Kepner, seconded by V.Baez

Principal's report: Mrs. McCormick wasn't feeling well. She is looking forward to meeting in December and discuss school improvement plan.

Vote in new members: No new members were voted in.

Shannon Phillips attended the District's FOCUS meeting, and she shared the following notes-

Growth for SJCS D this school year is 8.5% compared to previous average around 3% (exception of last year- COVID was at 2%) 46,350 student's total

- Food Service is a large issue, power buyer group for the county have been committed to one large supply firm that can no longer provide, resulting in inconsistency in available products (no lunch menu) and rising costs.

- At the time of the meeting the board was only thinking about opting out district wide of the federal free lunch, we know now that will be effective 12/1/21

- Concerns addressed were waste by students, federal law requires those receiving the free lunch to get a full tray (entree, veggies, fruit), the lack of cutlery in the cafeteria was also raised as many parents were not aware, but mostly the amount of waste was disheartening (free lunch or not).

\*\*Perhaps part of our school improvement plan can be to revisit proper nutrition (food pyramid posters etc.) and raise awareness of gratitude and healthy choices in an effort to reduce waste by all students (even those who bring lunch from home).

- Labor concerns, many parents offered to volunteer to serve lunch if allowed to help with staffing shortage. At the time of the meeting volunteers had been very limited. However, since 10/15/21, if parents have completed a background check, they may contact their school for volunteer opportunities.

- Transportation has also been an issue due to growth and staffing shortages county wide. Forson stated this is also a statewide issue, but even with the shortages SJCS D is at 95% staffed for drivers and 64% for attendants.

- ALL busses in the district now have AC!!!

- COVID cleaning protocol is still in place

- Began the school year with 237 routes, currently now at 240 routes serving approximately 23,000 students twice a day

- COVID effect on Health Services and Changing Circumstances has caused strain on many staff members, students and parents. Having to adapt to ever changing guidelines and mandates. Maintenance of protocols and extra work by teachers.

- Despite both SJCSO and Flagler Heath aiding in the phone intake process, delayed notifications have resulted and been a "nightmare to the school system".

- District shortage of 49 custodians, many teachers and staff working additional hours in these roles to aid the school, concern over training in proper sanitation methods.

- Critical Support Positions in Need at the time of the meeting were as follows:

- Bus Attendants 26
- Custodians 49
- Extended Day 26
- Food Service 39
- ESE Paraprofessionals 59
- Instructional Positions 60

- The district has hired 416 new teachers this year, however absentee rate and resignations are at an all time high.

\*\*What is the largest need at DCE in regards to an area volunteers could assist with (lunch duty, extended day, custodial work)? What is DCE doing from an administrative level to give support to staff to avoid burnout / turnover? What can parents (PTO/SAC) do to help in this area?

- State Level Changes

With the announcement of FSA going away, concerns were the following:

- Will this affect funding? Hopefully not was the response given by Forson
- What does the model of State Level Progress Monitoring look like? 3 smaller tests throughout the year
- Have we seen the tests? No, vendors do not yet even know what they look like

- Miscellaneous Comments

-15,000 emails sent to the Sheriff's office a day in regards to transportation, PSA officers, bus drivers etc)

- Only school district in the state to have a nurse in every school

- Field trips/ School Dances when will they resume? Forson stated hopefully the second half of the year, however in regards to school events it appears this varies at each school.

\*\*Can we give detailed information to SAC as to what DCE current plans are in regards to field trips etc?

Questions: Christine Gurdak- What are the school needs? Is it food, teacher burnout? Suggested a survey to be sent out to teachers to find out what DCEs needs.

Shannon Phillips- Mentioned that burn out and staff shortages could be a few of the needs. Suggested to show appreciation, by buying lunch.

Teri Heath- suggested to wait to hear what restrictions based on the school improvement plan. Also mentioned that it would be good to let teachers know what there is place for future fund requests.

James Chen- Are FSA tests officially being removed? Mrs. Heath mentioned that it is the last year that will be utilizing FSA test to measure student's growth, but not sure what would be in place for 2022-2023 school year.

Ms. Heath reminded the attending members and participants that our next SAC meeting will be on December 14, 2021. Also, to email questions or suggestions to add to the agenda for the upcoming SAC meeting.

Members present: Teri Heath, Ashley McCormick, Jill Tor, Vanessa Baez, Jenelle Dunathan, Kyle Cribbs, Shannon Phillips, Christina Brock, Margaret Morin (Pneuma Life), Ashely Bunnell, James Chen, Keisa Boykin, Sadie Ebanyat, James Chen

Absent: Ashley McCormick

Meeting was adjourned by Teri Heath.

Minutes taken: Vanessa Baez