

DURBIN CREEK SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting minutes for Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Start: 4:03 PM End: 4:49 PM

Recorder: Dara Giddings, SAC member and parent

Welcome and Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:03 PM

Review of October 2023 Minutes: Motion to Approve: Mandi Kinzig Seconded: Jean Kepner

Introduce New SAC Members: To maintain compliance with District SAC guidelines several members were appointed to SAC membership. They include Elaine Dusetzina, Jolene Ceridon-Laughlin, and Heather Hickerson

School Recognition Funds:

Part 1: Voted in favor of sending an equal share bonus to all employees listed on payroll, as well as the school nurses, IT Tech, Speech Pathologists, etc. Criteria for receiving bonus was Employees who were employed at Durbin all year from FTE to end of school will receive an equal share, employees not returning for the 2023-2024 year must have left in good standing, and employees who began after FTE or were part time will receive a prorated amount. Employees who left during the school year will not receive a share.

Motion to approve: Janelle Dunathen, Seconded: Jean Kepner Vote approved Unanimously

Guest Speaker Melissa Slater: 4th and 5th Grade BEST Writing Assessments

Facts: Best is for writing standards vs Fast which is for math standards.

Testing Window is April 1 – 12, 2024

Students have One (1) 120 minutes session to complete this response but if they need more time they will be given up to half the school day regardless of accommodations, and students with accommodations will receive the same accommodations as they receive through FAST

Prompts and timing:

Students will be assigned either an expository or argumentative prompt; 120 minutes (or up to half the school day) = time to read 3-4 passages, formulate a response, write the response, and edit the response.

Scores will be reported to the family and staff through the portals, this score is not combined with reading scores.

Scores are done by 3 scores, 2 AI and 1 human scorer.

Scores do not count towards school grades and will not be counted against students this year.

Rubrics:

May be argumentative or expository

Look at purpose and structure, development, and language; all 3 categories have equal weight 4 point scale for each section in a 12 point rubric.

BEST Writing Scoring samplers can be used as a resource.

Looking for a very clear beginning, middle, and end of the writing.

Practice Test:

You can find at home by searching for FAST practice test or going to

https://login4.cambiumtds.com/student_core/V53/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=Florida_PT&a=Student

There are some settings that they can change, which they have practiced in class.

Some side by side pages can expand or hide sections to allow students to focus.

Additional features that allow you to highlight line by line or specific sections.

Grade Level Team Reports:

Kindergarten Jessica Pogue- Just finished community helpers, saw a helicopter, Canine office, and firetruck. Moving into gratitude with Thankful Turkey

1st Grade Sophia Pezzella: Tomorrow (11/15,2023) there is an in-house field trip with Colonial America including corn mash and writing with a feather and ink. Next week is the Thanksgiving Scoot through the classrooms.

2nd Grade Jean Kepner: Just finished the gifted screening. Students eligible for further gifted screening will likely be notified in January. December will be the MOSH Field trip.

3rd Grade Forwarded from Erica Warwick: October 3 was the field trip to the St Augustine Aquarium. During Halloween 3rd grade did a Fall themed Math Hunt. An in-school STEM Field Trip is coming soon.

4th Grade Wendiny Napier: On Halloween 4th grade had Mad Scientist Day and went classroom to classroom with hands on experiments while dressed as a Mad Scientist. An in-school STEM Field Trip is coming soon.

5th Grade Mandi Kinzig: We love to encourage students to practice typing at home with Typing.com, Lexia, or Dreambox. This Thursday (November 16, 2023) is the field trip to Kennedy Space Center.

Resource Teri Heath: STEM is introducing Typing.com so everyone is familiar. Students can practice at home, the blue fingers light up as a reminder to go slow. Robotics team had their 1st practice competition and have a few months before their first official competition. Hour of Code is coming up in December with Code.com.

Music has just had their Veterans Day concert with over 100 veterans attending. The Chorus Winter Concert is December 14.

Art has completed their winter paintings that have been uploaded to SquareArt. They are beginning to work on clay and molding techniques.

Kindergarten Funds Request: Postponed to next meeting.

Principal's Report with Mrs. McCormick: Lots of fun coming up.

This Friday (November 17, 2023) PTO is having a movie night.

The Admin staff will be getting a Pie in the Face on November 21.

Interim grades will be available tomorrow (November 15, 2023).

December is right back to testing, K-2 will be before break and 3-5 will be after winter break.

English Language Learners – we have the highest number in the district, as of 2-3 weeks ago we had over 100 students but this number has gone up. The District Director is planning a visit after Thanksgiving. We are trying to see how we can best help with the transition from moving out of their home country and into one of our classroom.

No new safety developments but we are looking into some speakers who can come to SAC meetings.

District Focus Group Meeting Report Dara Giddings:

One of the topics discussed was about the approval process for software, equipment, etc that is purchased by PTO/A's which was pretty much that everything needs to be approved by the school (School Secretary is our point of contact) before purchases can be made.

While discussing the Strategic Plan, Sheriff Harwick spoke (during the Communications segment) about some of what happened in terms of communication last week. Both he and Forson reiterated that the School District will always be vague and school district privacy law compliant while most of the details will come from the Sheriff's Office or the State Attorney Office. They state that St Johns County School District and Sheriff's Department have a very close relationship and the Sheriff's Office has two dedicated officers who do only Threat Assessment for our schools.

There is an app called Fortify Florida (you may have seen the signs around the school) where students, or anyone, can anonymously report a threat. This has been a very useful tool.

Most of the other items were reading straight from the pages of the Strategic Plan and the SJCS 2024 Legislative Platform, I will send that as an attachment to the minutes if you are interested in reading them.

Questions/Comments:

Indra Boyapally: Who else can I contact about safety, on the road especially

McCormick: I can reach out and contact Sargent Kennedy again and see if they have any suggestions.

Next SAC Meeting Date: December 12 at 4:00 PM

Adjournment: Motion: Indra Boyapally Second: Mandi Kinzig

Members Present:

In person: Teri Heath, Wendy Napier, Dara Giddings, Heather Hickerson, Indra Boyapally, Ashley McCormick, Mandi Kinzig

Virtual: Ashley Bunnell, Carol Hardison, Danielle Jackson, Jean Kepner, Jenelle Dunathen, Jolene Ceriden-Laughlin, Tarra Lowe, Jill Tor, Katarina Jones, Elizabeth Frankland, James Chen, and Elaine Dusetzina

Guests: Melissa Slater, Jessica Pogue, Sofia Pezzella

Virtual: Diane Tucker