

DURBIN CREEK SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting minutes for Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Start: 4:05 PM End: 5:07 PM

Recorder: Dara Giddings, SAC member and parent

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM

**Review of February 2024 Minutes:** Motion to approve: Kinzig Second: Lafleur

**Discuss proposed changes to last year's Parent and Faculty/Staff Needs Assessment Survey:**

**Parents:** Launch later this week. Heath, Napier, and McCormick met and made a few small changes.

- 1) Q 28/29 Added question 29: If my child receives ELL (English Language Learner) Services, my child's needs are being met.
- 2) Q26 Added STEM to resources.
- 3) Removed question If the school were to receive an additional resource, which would you prefer. As it did not apply to next year.

**Staff and Faculty:** first 13 are required, but also a few small changes.

- 1) Q 30 Added STEM as resource
- 2) Added Q37 about ELL Services

**Finalize and approve this year's Parent and Faculty/Staff Needs Assessment Survey:**

**Parents:** Approved unanimously.

**Faculty and Staff:** Approved unanimously.

Question: How to fill it out

Answer: Email will be sent out on Thursday, will be sent out by teachers and in the Explorer News on Sundays.

**Science Adoption Point of Contact – Wendy Napier:**

The St. Johns County School District has begun the review process for the Science Instructional Materials Adoption. Once available, the digital resources will be posted on the Instructional Materials Adoption web page and available for review. The core resources that have been submitted for evaluation were selected from the state adoption consideration lists when available. Additional resources for advanced programs may be reviewed from materials listed as appropriate for the program indicated.

Reviewing: Discovery Ed, Sabis , McGraw Hill

Community members who are interested will meet and make a suggestion for how Durbin Creek feels about these materials.

**Grade Level Team Reports:**

**VPK:** Fifth classroom is open. Very excited to have 3<sup>rd</sup> blended pre-k class. Finishing our exercise studies and moving into building study. Fun activities planned for Valentine's Day, but they have also been spread out over several days. Did a fun "cookie" activity because kids learn through play. Always focused on social skills.

**Kindergarten:** Also working on social skills, groups are in full swing and assessing and moving kids in and out. Tutors are going great; kids are gaining a lot. Valentine's exchange tomorrow. Q and U wedding. Field Trip to see Goldilocks and the 3 Bears soon.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Also going to see Goldilocks but use it to talk about characters and beginning/middle/end. Working on How to's in our writing. Going through steps of intro, first, next, and being very meticulous. Tomorrow we are transforming our classrooms into Candy Land. A lot of great strategies in Math as we go into harder concepts of adding two-digit numbers to a 1 digit number.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Having a lot of fun, working on the Living History Museum where each student can choose a famous person who they can learn about and dress like to make their presentation. This year we did a sign up genius so parents and kids could discuss and choose. This ties together social studies and writing. In the planning stages on a field trip, had a few hits/misses but the bus schedule is tight, so we are now talking with Florida Theater, and are still brain storming. Having love/kind/caring for Valentines' tomorrow. Reading we are finishing up Theme and then will go into Author's purpose. Math we continue to do place value and using manipulatives to show how ones can be made into a tens, and tens into hundred.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** We have been working hard in PLC. We have had great conversations about drilling down on abstract concepts. We noticed that during 4<sup>th</sup> grade the testing moves from observing information to analyzing. We are working on how to connect their answers/claims back to text evidence.

Gearing up for BEST writing assessment, collaborating on how to prepare then for the written part and move them to computer skills as well. We encourage families to go look at samplings of the test on the Florida Department of Education.

For February a good portion of the classrooms are doing cereal box projects focusing on African American History, Women's History. Also in the planning phases of a field trip for May.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** March 5 we will have Tim Deegan to come in and help us with our Weather Unit. End of year field trip will be March 25 to Wild Adventure. Academically, math is fully into fractions, science is into weather and then will start reviewing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade standards to start preparing for the science assessment. We are also working on preparing for our writing assessment, please be practicing on typing.com. ELA heavy into informational text but are now moving into fictional text. Diving into character perspective and how it develops a theme and how setting develops the plot. Social studies just wrapped up the 13 colonies and are about to get into the revolutionary war.

**Resource: Music:** Mrs. Romero has had her baby. Mrs Mahone is in as a substitute.

Media – Author visit was fantastic. Book fair starts on Thursday.

Art – working on self portraits in art for the upcoming Art Show on April 26. Sign up genius will go out closer to that date for volunteers.

PE – Character Cup on March 6. They have been practicing after school.

STEM – Robotics team had their celebration on Monday and had their tournament in January. They won a Motivate Award for Exhibiting Lego League values and spirit. Everyone is working on Typing.com. Very important to look at finger placement and focus on what fingers are lighting up blue. OZO bots are coming up. Had an issue with the kit because they sent the wrong markers, but that is hopefully ready to go. Looking forward to pulling out the Lego Prime kits. Received another grant from the Players Club, typing that into character counts with responsibility.

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

So many wonderful things are going on here at Durbin. Your teachers are doing the hard work, and your kids are doing a great job responding. We opened a 5<sup>th</sup> pre-k class room with Joy Monoco and Julie Moore. New bookkeeper, Cara Wolf, and on Monday our new Deputy has arrived. JR Tillet is now with us every day. He is going to come to the first 5 minutes of PLC to introduce himself.

Hot ticket item is budget. What I'm hearing is a lot of misinformation and a crunch in St Johns County as emergency funding (ESSR) from federal government, but that is now expiring. Also have a county that has an incredibly high rate of growth that is not slowing down. Takes an enormous amount of money to open new schools, and staff new schools. So there is a focus on restructuring our budgets and how to refine our budget. Some schools are reducing nurses, but that does not affect us. We have two nurses who job share, so they fill the need of one nurse. They are looking at how they assign Assistant Principals to schools. First AP is 12 months and then additional AP's are 11 month. This is based on numbers. We have over 1000 students, so we have 2 AP's.

If you have been here for a while, you see us add Associate Teachers, Durbin is considered a School of Excellence, so the way we look at adding associates is based on averages, not single grade numbers, and we use our associates in a lot of different ways. We also work with the teachers and see what their needs are and how they want to incorporate the associate teacher. Our tipping point may go a little higher in the next year. So we will see class sizes go a little higher, but they have already been a bit higher this year. Principals will be doing tweaks within their own budgets. As we work through that and have things to share, we will share that with staff and families. But we will not be making a drastic change and will be thinking more strategically. School Counselors will not change, will not take instructional coach away. You might hear things from other schools, but each school makes some decisions for their own individual schools.

Looking at maintaining our enrollment, don't anticipate going lower. Will likely be in the same range for next year. May be making some changes in Pre-K world; and we need more parking, but we are very landlocked, so options are limited.

Space Jam is coming up on February 24.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Diane Tucker: Appreciate the overview and transparency of what to expect in the coming year.

**SAC Meeting Date:** March 5, 2024

**Adjournment:** Motion: Hickerson Seconded: Kinzig

**Members Present:**

**In person:** Dara Giddings, Wendy Napier, Teri Heath, Kristina McCraw, Mandi Kinzig, Christy Lafleur, Heather Hickerson

**Virtual:** James Chen, Jeane Kepner, Ilavarasi Veerappan, Elaine Dusetzina, Danelle Jackson, Jill Tor, Diane Tucker, Janelle Johnson, Carol Hardison.

**Guests:** Emily Pratt

**Virtual:**