

DURBIN CREEK SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting minutes for Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Start: 4:04 PM End: 4:49 PM

Recorder: Dara Giddings, SAC member and parent

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Call to order at 4:40 PM

**Review of October 2024 Minutes:** Motion to approve: Jennifer Draper Seconded: Lindsey Mentzer

Revisit Request for Funds Request from Andrea O'Brien for Guest Speaker

Q1: Deadline for Funds: The date that the speaker comes, which is in 2025

Q2: Total requested, is that the total funds: Yes, that is the total amount needed, but she can also split the request among other groups.

Q3: Has she requested funds from other sources: She has not yet at this time.

Wendy Napier will ask Mrs. O'Brien if she wants to come back and present again and request the funds.

Elizabeth Teelon – would the students have an opportunity to purchase signed copies of the books. According to the notes, yes the students would have that opportunity.

**Budget Review:** Funds have not changed from the last meeting. Holding at \$852.61

We have the opportunity to receive funds from School Recognition Funds. We did not get that money this year, so we will be working to prepare more educational materials to go out with the ballot this next vote, usually around March.

Question – Dara Giddings: Does SAC have the opportunity to raise funds in other ways?

Answer: No. SAC is not able to Fundraise as we are a District/State committee.

Indra Reddy – Last year made a donation through employer. Were those received by SAC?

Napier – those funds were funneled into the school funds. Not through SAC directly but did get added on to the school funds.

**Grade Level Team Reports:**

**Pre K – Jill Tor** Rocking and rolling like always. Kids are doing a lot better as we are into our second quarter. Our Friends are really becoming more independent. Finished Ball study and moving into Tree Study. What grows on trees, what lives in a tree, and what you can build with trees, and all of that stuff. We are still working on social skills and working with the littles to make sure they are able to self-regulate their bodies, so they are able to better focus.

**Kindergarten – Jennifer Draper** Kindergarten has a lot coming up. We were supposed to have a visit with k-9 tiger but that has been rescheduled for November 20. Annual Pie tasting on November 22. Three weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas we will have a lot coming up and it will be very exciting.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Nena Thomas** First Grade world is much like Kinder, we are exploding with lots of things going on. Using descriptive words and phrases and giving them exposure to adjectives, not just in their writing, but in the world around them. Diving into opinion writings, our students are really becoming very academic students in the second quarter. Asking parents to also encourage water drinking as we are having a lot of tummy troubles. Getting into graphs and data, we will be doing surveys and lots of questions. Tomorrow, we have Colonial Day with what it was like to live in Colonial America. Around Halloween we had a “Bat” day and discussed what it would be like to be a bat. And holidays coming up we will be doing research into other countries

Compare and Contrast, different Cinderella stories. Plus, non-fiction topics, what can we compare in our families, in our houses. Math continuing to subtract in 100 and word problems. Thanksgiving back in time versus modern days. Learned about Veterans on Monday. Disguising Turkeys, ultimate meal for Thanksgiving and other fun writing topics. Practicing sentence structure and other features.

November 22 St Augustine Aquarium, very excited to have our field trip. Gifted screening is going on. It's a fluid schedule based on the computer carts we have available. Fall Festival on November 1, split them up across 10 classes. For December we will be focusing on the holidays in our classroom, and the different holidays that our classmates' study.

Warwick- Last month was a fun month with our fieldtrip. This month we are looking into individual reading and Math we are diving into Plants that have flowers and don't and how they spread seeds. Next month we will also be looking at many different holidays.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Wendy Napier** Mad Scientist on October 31 was a great event. We completed a multitude of experiments. LA is poetry. Math is in division and learning how to divide 2 digits by 1 digit. We are learning about early explorers, especially St Augustine and the Native American people that were already here. Science we are looking at Space because on Friday we are hitting the road and visiting Kennedy Space Center.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Lindsey Mentzer** Science update, just concluded energy unit and moving into forces and motion. We will continue to test on those topics in labs and experiments. We continue to increase division and multiplication fluency. In Reading we have been very focused on non-fiction. Text features, details, evidence but we are starting to move into fiction and looking at character perspective. Writing we are working on informative essays and then will move onto opinionated essays. Social Studies curriculum has ancient civilization and native American tribes. So, on November 1 we had an in-school field trip with hands on games and activities as they rotated through the classrooms. We did jump ahead to learn about the Holocaust to coincide with Holocaust Remembrance Week. Also talked about the 6 branches and the military and how active duty and veterans have served our community.

**Resource – Teri Heath** Just coming off a successful Veterans Day program. In Music Mrs. Romero is also preparing her chorus for the winter concert. Media we are working on SSYRA Junior K-2 or Destiny Discover 3-5. PE they are planning to surprise 1-5 with a Florida Snowball fight, still waiting on information for Character Cup tryouts coming up for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Art – recently completed the art for the Square1 art fundraiser. The funds raised help to purchase arts supplies for our art program. 3-5 is working on fall color projects k-2 color theory. STEM working on engineering activities and how to work together in teams of 3. Each student has a role they rotate through but working on using our voice and cooperation. Coming up later this month and in later December we will be using our OZO bots, which

the kids just love. Will lead into hour of code in December where we will be doing activities with Code.org.

**Principal's Report with Mrs. McCormick:** Everything you just heard is it all in a nutshell. Our kids are so engaged, and great things are happening. Our older kids are really working on perseverance and not giving up. We have had to pivot because of the Hurricane days, missing 3-5 days can really throw off the plans that are set, but we have pivoted well and made up for it. Yesterday was a full day of Hurricane make up, and tomorrow starts our first of 10 full day Wednesday. We will continue to do that through February, and then back to early release so we can get back to our meetings and training and professional learning.

A few celebrations, during the election our community did pass the ½ sale tax renewal and the millage increase. Made me very proud as a principal to see how invested our community is in our school. The ½ cent will continue to go to building new schools and other development. Schools like us know the pinch of how our community is growing. Our rate of new registration has not slowed down. It brings challenges but we are happy to welcome new families. The Millage Rate will take place in 2025 and is promised to help with staff salaries. We don't know exactly what that will look like, but we hope to have more information soon.

Tim Forson has announced his retirement, so he will finish up this year, but we are grateful to have had him in our community for around 40 years. The search for the new superintendent is starting now, so you will probably start to see more about that soon.

Vacation is coming, this year students will have 5 days off, staff will technically be working but the school building will be closed to non-faculty or staff. We will still be available by phone and email. Second quarter interims will be live tomorrow – already. Older students if you need help with HAC, please let us know. We had a successful Fun Run; Movie night is this Friday. Thank you so much for your different support in the different ways that you show it.

**Change to agenda – Vote in Member.** Vote in Tanesha Arthur

Motion: Nena Thomas Seconded: Lindsey Mentzer

**Questions/Comments:**

James Chen- Will there be a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip?

Lindsey Mentzer – Yes, a parent survey had been sent home asking about interest in parent chaperones. Field Trip is being planned for March

Wendy Napier – Thank you for that question, it rings up the good point that many grades are looking into ways to bring the Field trip to Durbin, such as Fourth Grade did a Zoom with an Astronaut, and 1<sup>st</sup> Grades Colonial America field trip, as ways to bring in more activities for our students, while keeping in mind budget and inflation.

**SAC Meeting Date:** December 10, 2024, No Meeting in January

**Adjournment: 4:49 PM** Motion: Jennifer Draper Seconded: Lindsey Mentzer

**Members Present:**

**In person:** Wendy Napier, Teri Heath, Tanesha Arthur, Jennifer Draper, Nena Thomas, Erica Warwick, Lindsey Mentzer, Ashley McCormick

**Guests**

**Virtual:** Jill Tor, Elizabeth Frankland, Jean Kepner, James Chen, Indra Reddy, Carol Hardison, Elizabeth Teelon

**Guests:** Christopher Arthur