

DURBIN CREEK SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting minutes for Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Start: 4:06 PM End: 4:46 PM

Recorder: Dara Giddings, SAC member and parent

Welcome and Call to Order: Call to order at 4:06 PM

Welcome Allie Wright and Erica Warwick are new leaders

Approval of May Minutes: Motion: Jeanie Kepner Seconded: Teri Heath

Review of PowerPoint from the district.

Teacher's Report:

Pre-K – Jill Tor: Beginning of the year so we are focusing on routines and rituals, center names, safe people, social skills. Today was national teddy bear so we graphed our teddy bears and then ate teddy grahams.

Picture day is Friday, September 12. All staff and students will have their photos taken. Field Guide will have information on how to order yearbooks.

Kindergarten – Jennifer Draper: Also working on rules and routines. Working on identifying letters, beginning sounds and words, numbers 1 -5, and now unit 2 is comparing numbers. Also had teddy bears today where we graphed by size, and then also with gummy bears. We have already planned out our days for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Winter Holidays, so we have those ready to go.

First Grade – Sophie Weiler: Also working on routines and procedures. We are better working our essentials based on where we want our kids to be at the end of first grade. Math is adding and subtracting within 10, and phonics is vowels and sounds. We are also preparing our kids to get ready for switching class groups for WIN (What I Need) time.

Second Grade – Jean Kepner: Reading we are working on Rhyme Scheme and Story elements and working on Story elements with relevant details. In Math we started on addition and subtraction equations and how to find the information we need to solve the problem. We are about to start arrays; we just made an Array City. Science we are talking about Matter, and properties and characteristics. We are working on writing portfolios so you can see the progress over time. Finished STAR Reading and Math Testing, we will be doing Student Lead Conferences about scores and what is possible, and what a realistic score is to set for each individual student. Continuing Rituals and Routines and that is going great. We went full blown into centers and looking at the schedule and second grade is just having a great time.

Third Grade – Warwick/Wright: We are also adjusting to routines, we have a new teacher Madison Pucci, who just started this week. We also just finished PM1 Testing. In reading we began the year learning about characters, plots, and story elements. In Math, we have begun talking about strategies for learning to multiply and working on applying our Multiplication skills. We also have been talking

about arrays, so it's interesting to see how the grades build on each other. We have finished our first science unit on matter and we are beginning our first Social Studies Unit on geography.

Fifth Grade: Aly Goetz

Science: Concluded scientific method

Continuing Topic 1 Properties of Matter, Changes in Matter – compare and contrast the basic properties of solids, liquids, gases & investigate physical and chemical changes.

Math: Concluded Topic 1 – Place Value - Deepening the understanding of place value in both whole numbers and decimals. Students explored the structure of our base-ten numeration system by recognizing the relationships among the place values. Students learned to read, write, and round decimals to thousandths. Starting Topic 2 - Developing understanding of addition and subtraction of decimals using models, strategies, and understanding of decimal place value. Students will learn to estimate and compute sums and differences of decimals to hundredths.

Reading: Students have been learning about Central Idea and Relevant Details, where they have been identifying central idea(s) of a passage, identifying relevant details that support the Central Idea, and how to explain how those relevant details support the central idea. Students have also been learning about Nonfiction Text Features, where they have been identifying text features in an informational text, describing the information provided in a text feature, and explaining how the text feature impacts or contributes to the meaning of the text. Coming up, students will be learning about Nonfiction Text Structures, which are the different structures an author uses to organize information in an informational text.

Writing: Students have learned about the characteristics of a Personal Narrative. Now, students are beginning to learn about Informative (Expository) Essays step-by-step. Students will first learn how to approach a writing prompt, then dive into the elements of an Informative Essay. We will begin with the requirements of an introduction paragraph.

Social Studies: Students have been working on Unit 1: The World in Spatial Terms and U.S. Geography, which includes Chapters 1 and 2 “Maps and Other Geographic Tools” and “Physical Features and Places of the United States” Students have been learning about types of maps and the elements of maps, along with physical features in the United States. Students have also been learning the 50 states and capitals by region.

Fourth Grade – No Fourth Grade Rep at this time.

Resource: Teri Heath: Just finished second rotation of the year, so getting to know students and setting expectations. STEM Lego “getting to know you” unit and now starting Code.org. In pre-K we are sorting our sort-em-up cups and building with magnetic blocks. Music: Chorus forms have been distributed, due September 22, first rehearsal is September 29. Unit on how music is everywhere. Art is working on skill building with oil pastels and thinking out our Square 1 holiday keepsakes gifts. Media every student has been through Media introductions, Book check out has begun, and 3-5 has learned about SSYRA Books. There is currently a book drive going on. PE is finally outside and is working on the rituals and routines of being outside at PE.

Principal's Report: Welcome back! I also feel like a broken record. It has been a great and probably one of the better starts of our year. We are starting to see a lot of growth and will continue to see a lot of growth. As the ladies mentioned we have gotten permission to add a 3rd Grade classroom, but it's never easy to have the students make new transitions, but they have really done great job acclimating. Fourth Grade has also been impacted, and we will be adding a new associate teacher to help there.

We are still testing, but we are about to finish PM1. We just finished K & 1 make ups, and we had an exceptionally high number of makeups, so we ask that parents please do their best to make sure their students are here. Attendance is very important, and yes there are illnesses, but we need to work together to allow our students to be as successful as they can be. PBIS (Positive Behavior Support System), we are looking at a new way to address student behaviors, especially in common areas and on the playground. So, we have really simplified things for the kiddos and are working on making sure that all teachers and students are speaking the same language. So, you may hear about the Explorer Way, which is our expectations here on campus. We have a great guiding coalition that met this summer and will meet again soon. Also looking at new ways to reward students for following the Explorer Way. We still have our Durbie trophies, but we are going to build up a variety of ways to celebrate our kids. Our areas focus on Playground, Hallways and Oasis (cafeteria) and we will probably add our Biker/Walker areas next.

With that you will also learn about PLC (Professional Learning Communities), we were lucky enough to get some grant money to send some of our teachers to a conference on PLC over the summer. They are revisiting Essential Standards, and they will have some vertical conversation with other grades to see what we really need to focus on and spend more time on. We are looking at our next steps of what we need to do to help our students be successful. For example, with the PM1 data we will be taking a deep dive into the data to see what areas had a summer slide and what areas we need to revisit. I'm really very proud of all grade levels to see how well they have always worked together to help build student success.

Current Enrollment is just under 1100.

We are still having hiccups with Parent Pick Up but this has been the best beginning of the year we have ever had. We have had more teachers out there, our Safety Patrol is amazing, and parents are responding in a positive way, and reading emails. We've had to make an adjustment to biker/walker and remind parents not to walk up to the doors, but to say goodbye at the gate.

Upcoming is District Curriculum reviews for some materials. Parents and Community members will have the opportunity to be on those committees and help review the materials. Just a bit delayed as Ms Kling has left and Ms. Pietre has joined us, and she just needs a bit of training.

ByLaws: At the next meeting we will vote in any new members and vote on the By-Laws.

Questions/Comments:

SAC Meeting Date:

Adjournment: 4:46 PM

Motion: Jeanie Kepner **Second:** Ally Goetz

Members Present:

In person: Erica Warwick, Allie Wright, Dara Giddings, Allie Goetz, Jean Kepner, Ashley McCormick, Sophia Weiler, Teri Heath, Jennifer Draper, Elizabeth Teelon

Virtual: Jill Tor, Ashley Bunnell, Indra Reddy