

Durbin Creek Elementary School Advisory Council

Meeting minutes for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Start: 3:42 End: 4:25

Welcome and call to order: Danielle Coates, Chairperson.

Review December 2016 minutes: motions made, approved.

Parent surveys: first 15 questions cannot be changed (set by District). Reviewed questions 16-24. We changed questions 16, 24, and 25 to refer to all resource classes. Ms. Bird shared concern about overwhelm with too many questions, so combined ESE and speech. Also, fewer open-ended questions. Spelling correction on question 24.

Working on incentives for more survey participation. If a family does not have printer for confirmation page, parent can come to school to print. Suggestion made that perhaps they can email? Discussion of ways to confirm.

Ms. Labaw suggested that question 26 be reworded to avoid answering NO instead of N/A, as many who do not require guidance services answering "no" gives impression of dissatisfaction with services. Better that only those who actually access guidance office answer "yes" or "no."

Mr. Mack asked if there is a question regarding Patriotism. *Answer: that would be covered in Social Studies section, as that is part of the 5th grade standard. Perhaps can include specifically in question number 30?*

Principal's report: Ms. Miller reminded that we are want as much participation in survey as possible. Mentioned gift cards for 1st classroom to have 100% family participation, spirit sticks, etc., as participation waned last year. Survey "goes live" on February 1st.

School Messenger: all parents and staff should have received text message or email regarding this new communication program. If parents do not opt in, they will receive nothing from DCE. All numbers listed for a student will receive messages unless parent modifies their options via IC app.

Ms. Nguyen asked if should ask "text" on #20 so people will understand. *Change "remind app" to "text."*

School Messenger is from both school and District. Ms. Ball suggests an audio message from principal as well.

Dr. Nguyen asked about adding a question about additional resource classes.

Comments: a parent asked about I-ready; some concern about "sun goddess" and similar characters included in reading program. Ms. Bird shared that fables and mythology are part of state curriculum. Ms. Miller reminded that I-ready is a pilot program, and our SAC cannot change state standards. But, she also assured that we are all trying to make DCE the best school possible, and that if anyone should discover or hear of a different program, someone at the appropriate level would be glad to review it. Ms. Jones shared a similar concern she had in the past regarding mythology in the school curriculum.

FOCUS group: Ms. Van Meter shared that there is an assist program available to homeless students; District always does its best to keep students in their zoned schools. The group reviewed the student-centered culture of St. Johns schools--- for example: failing students often improved when helping younger students. Reviewed offerings at academies, graduation rates, etc. Also, our District's credit rating very good. Much information available on website.

Next meeting: February 14, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

Members present: Danielle Coates, Kara Bird, Teri Heath, Jennie Jones, Stephanie Williams, Renee' Labaw, Jan Phillips, Christie Ball, Ann Nguyen, Amber Van Meter, Lacey Boswell, Michelle Sharp, Troy Mack, Robin Zuckerman, Rachel Hughes

Members absent: Angela Fuller, Tracy Kosier

Guests: Lorraine Cosgrove (District Buddy)