

FFHSCCA 2019-2020 SCHOOL GOVERNANCE TEAM MEETING

Date: Dec. 17, 2019

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Meeting Called to Order by: Principal & Chairman Mr. James Sirmans

In attendance: Jalee Wilson Laquisha Paschal Cheryl Luckie
David Carter Jarrett Yarbrough Dorothy Norman

Mr. Sirmans opened the meeting with prayer and thanks to the members for attending the called meeting. The minutes were read and approved.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

*Academic schedule for 2020-2021 (Regular Block or A/B Block Schedule)

Mr. Sirmans, asking members for their input, again led a discussion concerning the pros and cons of the current schedule. He informed the team that a survey had been done which showed the majority of students and parents do not like the schedule. Teacher Jarrett Yarbrough stated that he felt one of the biggest variables in the success or failure of our current scheduling is organization. The block schedule works well if the students and teachers are organized, but many struggle with this.

Mr. Sirmans explained that FHSCCA could not go back to a 7 class schedule due to the partnership we have with Wiregrass; there must be a block schedule of some sort. Mr. Sirmans stated he would be meeting later in the week with the Leadership Team and they would discuss scheduling for next school year. He plans to have teachers do a Book Study on block scheduling.

*Follow-up on Art as an elective at FHSCCA by Mrs. Luckie

Mrs. Luckie informed the team that since the last meeting she met with Dr. Haralson who was very positive and supportive. He suggested Mr. Sirmans present the information to the Leadership Team and also that another student survey be given to students 6th - 11th grades. The results of the survey were very positive showing that the 783 respondents were very interested in art courses. Out of the choices students were given, Drawing, Painting, Photography, and Video garnered the most votes. (A copy of survey results is attached).

Mrs. Luckie also said she has received even more letters from people in the community who are in support of bringing the arts back into our high school, and she has sent letters to each board member. Mr. Sirmans suggested that Mrs. Luckie continue to work on getting

community support and perhaps get on the agenda to speak at the Board of Education meeting.

*\$15,000 request for armor shell for students' laptops

Mr. Sirmans presented the team with a request for \$15,000, half of the cost, for laptop cases to replace the ones the school now has which have proven to be inferior. He showed the team an example of the case and explained that it gives no protection when a laptop is dropped. A short discussion was held, then Mr. Sirmans said he would table this until the next meeting because a cheaper but still effective alternative was being searched for. The team will vote on this at their next meeting.

*Recommendations for remainder of LSGT Monies (\$9000)

Mr. Sirmans requested that the team offer suggestions for the remainder of the funds given to the Governance Team, reminding them that this must be incentives for students or teachers to enhance learning. It was suggested he give team members a list of possible ways the money could be spent, and it was agreed he would send that information. Mr. Sirmans reminded the team that if the money is not spent, it will be returned to the state.

*LSGT Suggestions for School Support and Community Relations

Mr. Sirmans explained that although the college & career segment of our student population seems to have parental and community support, this is lacking somewhat with our other students. He asked for suggestions to help get parents and the community more involved. Jalee Wilson explained that many of these parents cannot be involved due to the parents' and/or the students' work schedule or the students' extra-curricular activities after school. Cheryl Luckie suggested doing something similar to what had once been done in the past when business people in the community would come into classes and teach skills that related to student studies. For example, a banker could teach a lesson on setting up a budget or getting a checking account. She also suggested that parents who have a certain expertise, or special collection, or anything else of interest and relative to student studies could be invited to speak to the classes. The team was asked to continue to think of other possible suggestions.

Due to the inclement weather and the length of the meeting, Mr. Sirmans asked that we table other open remarks until the next meeting. He thanked members for their attendance and for their efforts. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30.

Submitted by
Cheryl Luckie, Secretary