Meeting Minutes for HMES School Advisory Committee September 5, 2023

Attendees:

Chairman-Brian Johnson

Vice Chair-Rapa B

Secretary-Jennifer Herrington

Principal-Scott Baldwin

Nicole Mills (assistant administrator)

Alli Suter

Aven

Brenda Bush (teacher)

Cori Sweeney (teacher)

Dylan Briggs

Elle Johnson (Villages of Piedmont II representative)

Erika Gaber

Ivan Jacob

Jenn Parker (Parks at Piedmont representative)

Jessica Shepard (Villages of Piedmont representative)

Marylee Tuniki (HMES parent liason)

Mejroda Ura

Nick Arzaga

Patricia Lattanzi (Virginia Crossing representative)

Robin Schenck (counselor)

Sadie Quimby

Scott Brown (school security assistant)

Stefa’nie Ross

Trish Vaughn (teacher)

Called to Order by Brian Johnson at 6:32 PM

Overview of what happens at the meetings: a collaborative sharing of information from parents and the school.

Can learn and share and advocate with parents in your neighborhood about the budget, PTO, SGA and other information that is shared at our meetings.

Minutes approved (Herrington will add to the website)

SCA-Schenk (not up and running yet) but will be soon; elections happening within the next month or so

PTO- meeting tomorrow (Sadie Quimby)

Bash on Friday-weather concerns cancel, post pone, or move

Won’t set up if a sprinkle; 40% chance of rain

Board voting tomorrow at 11:30; but consensus of SAC is to roll the funds in to other events

Principal Time

Introductions:

Marylee Tuniki our parent liaison: a new position (first year) working on developing the position. Focusing on connection, engagement, and sustaining communication between staff and the community. Connecting parents with resources and helping with Canvas and Parent Vue, reaching out to the parent community to help office staff, making copies, and assisting with Spanish-speaking families. Hope to bridge the gap to get parents engaged and stay engaged with the school and their students’ education.

Scott Brown is our security assistant. 100% compliance with whole staff listening and following requests with vests, doors, and badges. He worked for 28 years at FFX police and has been at HMES since Jan 2023. The bus loop is closed to traffic from 8:30-4:00. We have a vehicle chain to close off the playground. And a fence deterrent to prevent cars from going on the playground. Car lines are moving quickly and safely. Camera systems: 31 new cameras were installed in the school. Pretty much complete coverage; PTO will be getting 2 more cameras to have 100% coverage. The cameras have heat sensors, motion detection, and facial recognition. New signs at both ends of the playgrounds: No public access to grounds during school hours (PWCS), New concrete walkway by the rear of the school to give teachers and students a clean (non-muddy walkway). In September a new film will be added on all access points (doors) that will hold up to high levels of impact.

Principal Time:

Lots of new hires mostly due to growth.

HMES is a family; We have a great setup here because we understand the why; and that is all about the kids. We take the feedback and do what we can with it.

Safety is a large focus. The new film will be put on all classroom windows as well

Officially the largest elementary school in PWCS 970 kids

Using the trailers (everyone gets some trailer time) START (K-3 gifted) and Music

String and music rooms are now 3rd-grade classrooms (3rd-grade team working all together still); strings meet on the stage.

Budget: 95% of Per pupil spending on staffing; There are added positions that are paid for out of the school budget: cafeteria hostess (total of 3, but we need one more, drama teacher, ½ time special education teacher, an additional reading specialist (with the anticipation of having the position covered by the county later this year to meet the ratio of 1 reading specialist to every 550 students), a math support teacher for the upper grades,

September 30th (butts in seats) anticipating a bit more $50-75,000 additional for the LD inclusion program (looking for an additional part-time or full-time sped inclusion assistant) more information will be shared in September.

Ms. Butler helps with math deficits in the higher grades.

Additional reading specialist is Mrs. Slusher to help with 3rd-5th grade students

Bridge year with VA literacy state policy rolling out more information later this year.

Flex funds are in a comfortable place for now. The school spends $100,000 on subs (families first then HMES family)

Comfortable with where we are with our budget.

In October we will be talking more about the continuous improvement plan (CIP) which is a working document based on data where we are the farthest away from the division goals. We focus on underperforming groups (subgroups) and subjects that might need more from professional educators and getting more information and feedback from the community.

Budget-we will have more info after Sept 30th

Specific topics for other meetings:

Guests in the past come to meetings to share about safety, post-pandemic recovery, emotional health, internet safety

Are there things that our communities need to hear about?

Internet safety -BARK (free) for PWCS students/families

Loudoun gave parents the opportunity to see student search history from their device at school, maybe something available for our school.

Patricia L: peer bullying, social media clicks, emotions, focus on emotional health; parents learn how to help support and overcome, mitigate this part of growing up

Robin S: homework help and support for parents at home (teaching them to do the work to prep for middle school

Erika G: divorce and separation groups to foster connections (counselor information: they use survey information and conversations with parents and students (anger management, friendships, banana splits (family) same grade level to reduce the impact on instructional time.) Counselor groups helpful (Jessica’s mom)

3rd-5th graders doing a PWCS survey for beginning-of-the-year data to help us know what our students may need. Spot checks throughout the year (more to come in October)

Jessica (ADHD presentation) 504 plans, evaluations, food allergies, support/ how to help (introduction to Parent Resource Center)

Members of the advisory council: (have some gaps to fill and may need some restructuring)

Chairman: Brian Johnson (elected)

Vice-chair: Rapa Barsell (elected)

Secretary: Jenn Herrington (elected)

Villages of Piedmont I: Jessica Shepard

Villages of Piedmont II: Elle Johnson

Parks at Piedmont: Jennifer Parker

Villages of Heathcoat: vacant

West Market: vacant

Virginia Crossing (all the homes new and older that are across the street and next to HMES): Patricia Lattanzi & Stephanie Walker as a team

Haymarket Landing: vacant

Because the neighborhood is split by a road, it would be beneficial to have a second representative. We can amend the bylaws to accommodate the new homes by adding an additional representative. New name? Haymarket Landing

Teachers and staff also participate as representatives in the meetings

Does anyone know of anyone who would like to like to volunteer for the vacant positions?

Elected representatives get a spot on the Superintendent Advisory Council. The council meets once a month at the Kelly Leadership building. No schedule yet, but we will need a representative at each meeting. We usually have a sign up to rotate having different representatives attend the meeting

Any desire to return to in-person? The challenge with zoom meetings is that we get more people participating but it is harder to participate in conversations. Maybe for the bigger topic meetings, we could go to in person. To entice families by providing activities and food. Alphabet stayed once a month to watch school-age kids.

Go meeting by meeting

October by zoom

Mejroda -month of mental health (May) presentation in person?

Citizen Time:

No questions, comments or concerns at this time

Meeting adjourned at 7:35

Motion- Herrington

Seconded-Mills