Meeting Minutes

Summit Hill School Governance Council

Date: 11/29/23 Time: 3:00pm Location: Principal’s Conference Room

**SGC Members Present**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lorrie Bearden, Principal | ✓ | Caylee Esmonde, Elected Parent | ✓ |
| Lisa Tackett, Elected Teacher |  | Kelly McDonald, Elected Parent | ✓ |
| Beverly Vanacore, Elected Teacher | ✓ | Deborah Shigley, Elected Parent | ✓ |
| Stephanie Dibert, Appointed Staff | ✓ | Juliette Johnson, Community Members | ✓ |
| Ashley Patterson, Appointed Staff | ✓ | Erek Mimms, Community Members | ✓ |

**Additional Members:**

Camille Santos

**Agenda Items:**

1. Action Item: Approve Agenda
2. Action Item: Approve October Meeting Minutes
3. Action Item: Review Meeting Norms
4. Discussion Item: Principal Proposal for Charter Funds
5. Action Item: Vote on Charter Fund Proposal
6. Discussion Item: PTO Update
7. Discussion Item: Principal Update
8. Discussion Item: Superintendent Parent Advisory Council Update
9. Discussion Item: Community Outreach/Communication
10. Discussion Item: Cross Council Meeting Feedback
11. Discussion Item: Public Comment
12. Action Item: Set January 24th Agenda
13. Meeting Adjournment

**Meeting Minutes:**

|  |
| --- |
| Action Items |
| Motion | Time | By Whom | Second By | Voting Results |
| Meeting called to order at | 3:06 | Kelly McDonald | Stephanie Dibert | All Approved |
| Motion to approve agenda  | 3:04 | Deborah Shigley | Caylee Esmonde | All Approved |
| Motion to approve October meeting minutes | 3:06 | Ashley Patterson | Deborah Shigley | All Approved |
| Motion to set next meeting agenda | 4:10 | Kelly McDonald | Stephanie Dibert | All Approved |
| Meeting adjourned at | 4:12 | Caylee Esmonde | Ashley Patterson | All Approved |

1. 3:06 Action Item: Meeting Called to Order
2. 3:06 Action Item: Motion to approve agenda. Revision- Amend to have public comment session @ 3:56
3. 3:06 October Minutes- Everyone agreed.
4. 3:08 Meeting Norms reviewed.
5. 3:08 Principal Update: Dr. Bearden discussed charter funds. She has been at the National Blue-Ribbon Conference this week. Dr. Bearden is lobbying hard to make SHE a National Blue Ribbon School. SHE is currently rated 101 on Georgia school rankings. Mrs. Esmonde explained that the school rankings took their data from 2020-2021. This years’ data is looking much stronger. Dr. Bearden made a charter fund proposal. She would like to spend $7900 to get a team to help with getting Blue-Ribbon status. They will work with the school until we get there. Dr. Bearden would like to propose that a portion of the funds go to this. McDonald asked what areas were addressed with Blue Ribbon status. Dr. Bearden explained that schools need to be exceptional in 9 areas: Student Focus and Support, School Organization and Culture, Challenging Standards and Curriculum, Active Teaching and Learning, Technology Integration, Professional Community, Leadership and Educational Vitality, School, Family, and Community Partnerships, and Indicators of Success. Mrs. Esmonde asked about what happened to the money if we got named early. Dr. Bearden explained that there are different levels of ranking and that they would help to get us to a higher level. We have a parent with ties at the Georgia government working to get SHE nominated. This could also help promote Summit Hill’s rankings. Mrs. McDonald had concerns about the committee pushing Summit in a direction that parents and the community may not agree with. Dr. Bearden feels their expectations align with ours. She mentioned that there is an emphasis on technology and real-world applications. Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence is the council. Each year 8 total schools get elected; 5 elementary schools; and 3 must be title one. Mrs. Shigley wanted to know if the schools that won did anything to stand out. Dr. Bearden does not feel this is the case. It is more about growth, achievement, and the whole child’s experience. Mr. Mimms wanted to know what the significance of Blue Ribbon is. Dr. Bearden explained that it comes with national recognition. Teachers were asked about the stress of the counsel coming in. Mrs. Vanacore, Mrs. Patterson, and Mrs. Dibert explained that we have people in the building all the time. They are helpful and the council could give an opportunity for positive reinforcement. The Blue-Ribbon award lasts 10 years. The assessment will start in February if we decide to do this. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to vote. Voting: 9 members agreed, 0 disagreed! Dr. Bearden mentioned that there will be a focus group that parents would be allowed to be on it. Dr. Bearden will have more info in January.
6. 3:32 PTO update: Thanksgiving feast was wonderful, and staff was given Southern Pies that were delicious. Currently doing a gift card drive for Summit Hill families in need. Breakfast with a Buddy is on Dec. 12-13.
7. 3:35 Principal Update: iReady testing is happening this week. Data will be ready to present in January. Blue Ribbon school update will be given to the staff this week. Grades are being wrapped up for the semester. CCRPI scores will be updated soon. GA health survey impacts our 5-star climate rating. We need 15% of all parents to participate. Students will be given a survey in ASL.
8. 3:38 Supt Parent Advisory- Mrs. McDonald discussed the superintendent call. They talked about teacher retention. Fulton County is having teachers do exit surveys when they leave. They are also asking veteran teachers why they stay. Veteran teachers expressed that they stay for students and staff members at their schools. Teachers leaving the county discussed the change in student behavior, feeling unsupported, the calendar, and having too much responsibility. A new calendar for the 24-25 school year will be proposed on December 5th. They got lots of feedback! Fulton County Schools are 98% full, 97% is the norm. They are trying to find ways to get teachers to the hard to fill schools. They are going to investigate giving them opportunities for professional development. Level Up Fulton is an initiative for most professional development to be under one umbrella. They also want to create road maps for staff to help with career pathing. May offer advanced degree programs. Fulton is also continuing with the Bridge to Success program which gives opportunities for all students.
9. 3:44 Community outreach- The council discussed whether we should send a parent communication survey out. Dr. Bearden explained that the health survey that was coming out will be specific to the school and that we could wait to get those results. Communication was an area of deficit identified in the parent survey last year. During preplanning, teachers streamlined communication and the council felt it was no longer an issue. The team also noted that we do not want to send out too many surveys.
10. 3:50 Cross council meetings feedback: Mrs. Shigley talked about focusing on the innovative aspects. She believes we have 46,000 to spend. Dr. Bearden discussed her thoughts on ways to spend the funds. She would like to create a SHE Shares Garden and paint murals around the school. She mentioned that some of the signage around the school is very outdated and does not go with our current brand. Mrs. Shigley explained some research behind adding murals/artwork. She preliminarily looked into pricing and found a large range: $25,000 on artist commissions where a peel and stick would only be $500. There are many artistic parents within our community. Maybe they would donate their time? Mrs. Shigley also discussed whether a portion of the funds could be used for teacher mini-grants and a study skills curriculum. Mrs. McDonald mentioned that she talked to Megan Jameson at The Collab who does this and could possibly help. They would like to set up parent workshops. Effective Students is a company that Mrs. Shigley would like to investigate. Lastly, she talked about a creative development project. Dr. Bearden and Mrs. McDonald mentioned that ASL touches on this. The team discussed that maybe we could start some clubs, science fairs, or robotics opportunities. Dr. Bearden is working on a partnership with Cambridge High School to start a gardening initiative and possibly create a Farm to Table club. Mrs. Patterson asked about the revamping of the teacher workroom and the possibility of starting a service project. She discussed the SHE Shines for Ukraine project that was created a few years ago. The Community Outreach Committee is going to meet and come up with pricing for some of these ideas. Dr. Bearden reminded the team that the cost of the subs needs to be factored in for any teacher PD during the school year.
11. 4:09 Public Comment- None
12. 4:10 January Agenda: Principal update first, Data, Blue Ribbons, Pictures, PTO Update, Superintendent Advisory Committee Update, Community update (Mimms), Set agenda, Vote on charter fund.
13. 4:12: Meeting Adjourned- McDonald proposed, Esmonde motioned, Patterson seconded.