Medlock Bridge School Governance Council

Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2020 – 3:00 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

This Meeting is Open for Public Comment

**Present**:

**Vance M., Principal**

**Lawrence M., elected teacher/Chair**

**Jones S., Elected teacher**

**Fowler, K., Appointed Teacher**

**Eisenberg, T., Community Member**

**Smith, J., Parent**

**Spragg, C., Community Member**  
 **Stahl, Parent/Vice Chair**

**Bradley, M. Parent & PTO President**

**3:02 P.M. Call to Order by M. Lawrence**

**3:03 P.M. Action Item: Approve Meeting Agenda**

Motion- Dave Stehl

2nd- unknown

Unanimous ayes

**3:06 P.M. Meeting Norms reviewed by M. Lawrence**

Discussed norms for online meetings

Be respectful of each other

Expectations speak with one voice

Cameras are optional, microphones muted unless speaking

Discussed use of a speaker’s list

Voting via chat box when possible

**3:08 P.M.** Motion to approve the October Meeting Minutes

Motion- K. Fowler

2nd- S. Jones

Unanimous ayes

**3:09 P.M. Public Comment / Virtual Comment Box Summary**

No new comments currently

No updates on previous comments.

**3:10 P.M. Discussion Item: Principal’s Update (Vance)**

* This is the final SCG meeting for 2020
* Thank you for maintaining SCG in one of the strangest years we have all experienced
* Since we last met, we have not had any additional cases of positives cases of Covid 19, we had an incident in oct and quarantined
* Cases are rising and we are remaining very cautious important to watch the Nov 19th board meeting
  + There is public information in advance, board has ultimate decisioning power
  + Go to Fulton schools.org to attend, you will find a live stream

Please reference Fulton schools.org to confirm time

* + A summary email comes out afterwards
* That meeting will have info about schools for the rest of the semester and what school will look like in Jan 2021.
* There is a meeting of instructional leaders happening Shawn Covey 4 disciplines of execution
  + Helps to focus on what is long game? how to focus on what's most important, making sure we are making progress in math and reading
  + Academics are what we are here for and to make gains there; social and emotional security are also important
  + Helps us see where we are and where we are going

**Charter dollars**

* Non instructional staff surveyed -spent some funds for face shields, felt safer, cost on face shields increased due to smaller quantity was purchased

**PTO update**

* M.Bradley- book fair starts after Thanksgiving break
* Time machine theme to connect w/30th MBES anniversary will be 90's theme
* There will be a competition w/student for them to guess who’s who
* We are trying to create a yearbook to commemorate this year
* PBIS teacher awards- looking for gift cards and amazon teacher wish lists
  + Teachers can be recognized for what going above and beyond

**iReady**

* We just finished our F2F recognition that completed 25 lessons in iReady reading and iReady math
* 2nd goal- pass 50 lessons by Dec 31st or 25 more than where you stand right now would accomplish that goal
* Target is 100 lessons for each by end of year
* This is one focus that we are doing to bring academic focus back to the forefront of our minds
* Return to School Plan Update
  + Overall return to F2F school with an online option has gone well. Shared about the school’s approach to COVID-19 management and what communication will look like.
  + Shared website parents and community could monitor data related to positive COVID-19 cases on campus and related quarantine for all schools ([www.fultonschools.org/coronavirus](http://www.fultonschools.org/coronavirus))
* Discussion on spending funds
* Reading A-Z – Vance thanked the board for the approval and confirmed that the program was purchased, and training provided for its use.
* Return to School Safety Items – Vance shared that $3,578.67 of approved $9,000 was spent on desk shields for teachers who wanted them. Vance mentioned the need for other staff besides teachers to have the same protective equipment. The cost for additional staff is not to exceed $2000
* STEM Paraprofessional - Discussed adding a STEM Paraprofessional using charter dollars but spending of these funds on staff no longer permitted.
* Books for classrooms – Reviewed general pricing that would fit the need for expanding teacher’s classroom libraries. Discussed previous efforts to build classroom libraries in 2018-19 funded by PTO. Estimated $5000 per classroom. Subcommittee of K. Fowler, S. Jones to research further
* Outside Learning Environments – Continues to be an area of interest for the group but more research needs to be done. Logistics, rain, value, use all discussed. Subcommittee of K. Fowler, M. Bradley formed to research further
* Classroom furniture – Discussed high cost for potentially low benefit, limited need and use. Estimated $7-9000 per classroom. Subcommittee of Eisenberg, Bradley, Castel formed to research further
* PTO Update – Guest Speaker Megan Bradley
* Bradley shared PTO activities for the year. Shared efforts to revitalize school garden through partnership with Eagle Scout. Shared efforts to support teacher/staff morale through staff snacks, Amazon Wishlists, playground supplies, and supporting other instructional/non-instructional needs for students. Capacity to fundraise limited this year.

**3:22 P.M. Outreach Committee**

* + K. Fowler- Books for the classroom -sent out a survey to our teachers are regarding their classroom libraries
  + Surveyed Quantity of books, if it supports curriculum, mixture of books fiction/nonfiction, diversity
  + 12 responses- 1/2 said they have over 20 + books in their classroom not necessary to go w/curriculum
  + Surveyed what else do they need for their space
  + Teachers didn’t have classroom libraries and are looking for books on- level and more diverse and organization assistance
    - Noone asked for certain books
  + Vance- We do need to intentional spend these funds on what we are looking to do
  + Goal in to get students reading on grade by 3rd grade
  + M. Lawrence- will be a worthy pursuit definitely one of our biggest areas to work on
  + S. Jones- purposefully purchasing these types of books
  + J. Smith- daughter’s ask does this have a girl character
  + Nonfiction - changes in a 5-year cycle
  + S. Jones- Need to select something they are into and current - what sucks them in
  + Both classroom and library books are needed
  + C. Spragg important to see representation of themselves
  + Biographies of diverse people

**Summary** - K. Fowler will look into this nonfiction and diverse books and hold vote on Jan 9, $80K left unapproved, this item was tabled

**Outside Learning Environments**

* Terri previous school had outside place and reserved a time
* using what you have and teachers collaborating,
* found a lot of ideas online
* simpler and how to get them outside and engaged in learning
* M Lawrence- do encourage nature walks
* Terri reached out to local high schools and build a bench or a table
* M. Lawrence- we have a lot of boy and girl scouts would be willing to do hat
  + Vance-consider the work ethic on person who volunteers, it is a teaching event on both sides, consider that as well, want to support community but want to ensure the work ethic is there
* M. Lawrence-brought up pictures of options
* Use of existing benches outside of classroom
* Terri-Companies are wanting to donate for taxes, and they found a company the benches at cost
* Consideration- cannot sit at benches and be 6 feet apart
* Suggestion to bring towels to sit on

**Summary**- continue looking at inexpensive ways to implement this

* + Megan and Terri to meet to discuss

**Desk Options**

* + Open desk would be beneficial, to keep student materials with them
  + Considerations- how many would we need, seating arrangements, flexibility to solve behavioral issues if needed
  + M. Vance -This is not something that can be done quickly need to ensure this is something the school wanted post covid
  + Megan will look into how many have and gather teacher feedback
* M. Vance- Jan 19 is as late as we can push this decision if we want to have it impact this year's students
* J. Smith- asked if the warehouse has anything, Vance confirmed yes
* Summary- M. Lawrence and S. Jones will further research

**Outreach**

* 87 responses
* 52 virtual responses- 100% due to covid
* F2F- 30 responses, 27% social reason, 13% parent reasons, 40% learning, 20% other
* highlights- 52% positive teachers and schedules, staff open
* PTO- does a lot for school
* 23% communication is good
* Community sense of community
* Education programs well organized
* Dr. Parham, parents’ university is this morning and look forward to continuing to do these sessions

**Finance Committee-** No update from committee

**Strategic Plan Monitoring Tool Focus**

* SGC survey will be sent out
  + Student achievement, people and culture & community collaboration and fiscal responsibility
  + Major initiatives projects - desk shields, reading a-z, books for classroom libraries, outdoor learning environments, class furniture, MBES Parent university, surveying of community, surveying of staff
  + How did SGC support long term strategic direction for your school- 3rd grade reading level on /above level, safe positive environment
  + Data captured- community and staff data, look at usage of reading a-z, attendance of MBES, parent survey,
  + How did the work support your school? desk shields for teachers and staff, surveying the needs of parents in face to face
  + Sharing conversation needs through conversation in the SGC committee meetings
  + Based on the work of your SGC what if any shifts would you suggest to the strategic direction of your school?
    - Post covid 19 recovery, how are we building academic socially and culturally
  + What major initiatives or projects will our SGC focus on next
    - Outdoor learning environments providing of community based on SGC surveys

**4:34 Superintendent Advisory Update**

* + Terri- Parent bill of rights done completed in Jan 2021
  + Renewing the Fulton County Charter- a vote would be coming
  + Equity throughout the county discussion - inquired about assessments quantity
  + Fulton county is doing a better job
  + in order to catch students up it will take a long time for academically and emotionally

Note: approval for spending of charter dollars was deferred

**4:37 P.M. Setting agenda**

* School budget update
* Teacher/staff needs to include books

**4:23 P.M. Meeting Calendar** set for:

Jan 19 @ 3:00 p.m.

Feb 16 @ 3:00 p.m.

Mar 16 @ 3:00 p.m.

May 11 @ 3:00 p.m.

**4:38 P.M. Motion to adjourn**

Motion – Shannan Jones

Second- Dave Stahl

Unanimously approved to adjourn

**4:33 P.M. Meeting Adjourned**