FMMS School Improvement Committee Meeting MINUTES

Meeting date | time *4/18/2018 11:00 AM* | Meeting location *NA/Conference Call*

Type of meeting	Meeting	Attendees
Facilitator	Celia McCarter, Chair	Tony Caricari, Cori Johnson, Christine McNeil, Celia McCarter, Suzanne Kuebler, Linqing Guo, Melissa Cota
Note taker	Celia McCarter	

AGENDA TOPIC

This is the eighth SIC meeting for the 2017-2018 School Year. The following are details from that event.

Celia McCarter thanked each of the members "attending" the meeting by calling into the Conference Call during the day.

Celia McCarter asked the SIC members to read the December minutes. Melissa Cota motioned to pass them as written; Christine McNeil made a second motion to pass them as written. After a vote was taken, the December 2017 minutes were approved as written.

Celia McCarter asked the SIC members to read the March minutes. Tony Caricari motioned to pass them as written; Cory Johnson made a second motion to pass them as written. After a vote was taken, the March 2018 minutes were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Tony Caricari explained to the council that Dr. Michael Waiksnis (Executive Director of Middle/Secondary Education for the Fort Mill School District) is interested in the council's opinion about a curriculum matter. He is proposing that the FMSD remove the "GT" label from the middle school's Science and Social Studies courses. His position is the following:

1. There is no difference per the SC Department of Education in the curriculum offered in the 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Science course and the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Science GT course. Likewise, there is no difference per the SC Department of Education in the curriculum offered in the 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies course and the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Social Studies GT course.
2. When testing for GT, students are not identified via Science and Social Studies testing; they are identified via English and Math testing. Therefore, students who are identified for GT in English and Math may not have the same strengths in Science or Social Studies.
3. By removing the "GT" label from these classes, these classes will be a more heterogenous group meaning that the students in these classes will be comprised of both GT identified students and non-GT identified students.
4. In terms of staffing, all GT courses must be taught by GT certified teachers. This certification is an extensive and expensive process to earn. By removing the label, there is more flexibility in staffing these core classes.

After discussing these points, the Council was unable to find a reason that the GT label should be kept. Thus, the Council voted unanimously that the GT label should be removed from the 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Science and Social Studies courses. Tony Caricari will convey the SIC's recommendation to Dr. Waiksnis.

Important Dates to remember:

WEDNESDAY, April 25th School Board meeting (typical board meetings are on Tuesday nights)

May 8th SIC Meeting 5:30 pm Media Center

May 8th John Letterhos – Guest Speaker at FMMS 6:00 pm

May 8th Spring Chorus Concert 7:00 pm NaFo Auditorium

May 17th Spring Band Concert 6:00 pm NaFo Auditorium

May 21st 8th Grade Beta Club Hike

May 24th Field Day

May 25th 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony 8:45 am in FMMS Gym

May 25th Last Day of School 11:30 am Dismissal

The meeting concluded at 11:14 am.