FMMS School Improvement Committee Meeting MINUTES

Meeting date | time *10/9/2018 4:00 PM* | Meeting location *FMMS Media Center*

Type of meeting	Meeting
Facilitator	Jennifer Bowman, Chair
Note taker	Celia McCarter

Attendees

Maurice Murphy, Cory Johnson, Jennifer Wilson, Jennifer Bowman, Celia McCarter, Suzanne Kuebler, Linqing Guo, Crystal Basnight, Jennifer Rossi, Brandy Heisler, Bonnie Hisman, Terri Murray

AGENDA TOPIC

This is the second SIC meeting for the 2018-2019 School Year. The following are details from that event.

Jennifer Bowman thanked each of the members attending the meeting and asked each member to introduce himself/herself because new council members attended this meeting.

Jennifer Bowman asked the council to read the September minutes. It motioned to pass them as written; a second motion to pass them as written. After a vote was taken, the September 2018 minutes were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer Bowman informed the council what the School Improvement Council is, what it does (goals) and its purpose/direction.

After explaining the duties of a Vice Chair, Jennifer Bowman asked for nominations for a Vice Chair. Crystal Basnight was nominated, then a motion was called to vote for her to serve as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded; council voted unanimously for Crystal Basnight serving as Vice Chair.

After explaining the duties of a Secretary, Jennifer Bowman asked for nominations for a Secretary. Celia McCarter was nominated, then a motion was called to vote for her to serve as Secretary. The motion was seconded; council voted unanimously for Celia McCarter's serving as Secretary.

Council agreed to future meeting dates. They will meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm in the FMMS's Media Center. These dates include: November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, and April 9. As per the SC SIC Handbook, the council must meet at least 8 meetings each year.

Maurice Murphy 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 SC Standards 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 SC Standards 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 ELA (English) and Math testing. Therefore, students who are identified for GT in ELA (English) and Math may not have the same strengths as they do 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. In addition, the new SC Teaching Standard requires more grouping of students.
4. The elementary GT model serves students in English and Mathematics GT only. By removing this GT label at the middle school level, the middle school will now follow the elementary model. Once students advance into high school classes, all courses (college prep, honors, advanced placement) are self-select.
5. In terms of high school credits, the students are not placed in the current 9th Grade Science Course and Social Studies Course based on GT Science or Social Studies courses taken in 8th Grade. These are self-selected courses and based on teacher recommendation and PASS/SC Ready scores.
6. 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 and in class scheduling.

After discussing these points, the Council understood why the recommendation to the Fort Mill School Board of Trustees in May 2018 was to remove the GT label from the 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Science and Social Studies courses. They (FMMS's SIC) agreed to convey this information to other parents and convey any additional concerns to Maurice Murphy or Jennifer Bowman.

The meeting concluded at 4:56 pm.

Important Dates to remember:

October 9th – School Board Meeting 6:00 pm

October 16th – School Board Candidate Forum – FM High School Auditorium 7 pm

October 19th – Weather Make-up date (from Hurricane Florence), students/teachers/staff attend school

October 22nd – Teacher Workday; no school for students

November 6th – Election Day (including School board)

November 6th – Students and Staff Holiday

November 6th – School Board Meeting 6:00 pm (Expected decision on HS redistricting)

November 21st-Novembet 23rd – Student and Staff Holiday (Thanksgiving)

December 21st-Jan 3rd – Student and Staff Holiday (Winter Break)

January 4th – Teacher Workday; no school for students