

Meadowfield Elementary School
School Improvement Council

Minutes

October 13, 2022

The October 13, 2022 meeting of the SIC of MES was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. In attendance were: Art Coogler, Maggie Adams, Erin Pruett, Katie Moore, Sybil Ely (Teacher Representative), Payal Shah, Christie Martin, Nancy Stoudenmire and Mrs. Cook (Principal).

Chairperson Alexis Wright was unable to attend the meeting due to a last minute conflict. Mrs. Cook said she would lead the meeting. The minutes from the September 18, 2022 were distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Erin Pruett and seconded by Art Coogler. Unanimously approved. A copy of the meeting agenda and SIC State Calendar was provided to each member.

Ms. Wright had originally wanted to review the business of the SIC. Mrs. Cook will send the By-laws of the SIC to all members. Mrs. Cook read the Purpose in the By-laws. In order to accomplish the purpose of the By-laws, she thanked all members of the SIC and PTO who have already been so helpful since her arrival at the school. The roles of each member of SIC was reviewed. Ms. Sylvia Rogers could not attend the meeting to discuss NNPS. She is the Parent and Family Engagement Specialist and will make a presentation next month.

Mrs. Cook said the enrollment to date is 637. At the last meeting, there was a question as to what was the enrollment at the end of last year. Mrs. Cook researched this question and it was 656; she did point out that at the beginning of the year, the number is always fluctuating regarding enrollment. The District always is looking at the student/teacher ratio and this year, they have decreased that ratio. Fortunately, there have been no reductions in staff and any required deductions were accommodated over the summer through retirements from last year. Fourth grade classes are the largest; one teacher was lost in the adjustments and class size now stands at 23 students. The Pre-K classes are small; Kindergarten is now at 18 students per class. These numbers will continue to be monitored by Mrs. Cook on a daily basis.

Facilities: The recent fire in the tech room was started by a wiring problem where the Chrome Books were stored in the library. There was significant smoke damage; 12,000 books have been sent to Charleston for smoke removal. The library continues to be closed and in the next 60 days, there will be new carpet, paint, new furniture, ceiling tiles, and LED lighting. Expected completion is November 25th. The library is temporarily in the stage area of the cafeteria. Fortunately, 516 library books were checked out and are in circulation in a library on wheels. Mrs. Cook has also requested improvements for the cafeteria: new tables, fans, and shades. She continues to look at the needs for furniture in the classrooms.

Landscaping: There were foundations issues along the outside of the building and along the playground and the District removed all of the plants in the gardens. The outside will remain as it is; there will be no replanting. Nancy Stoudenmire said that Mr. Coogler and her had observed the removal of over 40 healthy small plants on the Galway side of the school. Home owners in the neighborhood had contacted her and were not pleased with how the building now looks. She will write the district regarding their concerns. The PTO was looking into maybe adding large planters to the front and sides. Mrs. Cook wondered if there were grants that could address this. The Hampton Garden Club and Columbia Green were discussed as options. Two snakes ended up in the building after the landscaping was removed. Fortunately, since the last SIC meeting, the rodent problem has been abated.

Gravel Parking Lot: Between the fire and library renovations and the landscaping removal, this project is once again on the back burner.

Lighting: Mrs. Cook has been informed that the entire school will get new LED lighting starting Monday, October 17. The work will be done daily from 4:00 pm until midnight and will not impact the learning schedule. The teachers are especially excited because there will be a dimming capability. Exterior building lighting will also be included in the project.

Testing: The school has just finished STAR testing which is done in fall, winter, and spring to monitor individual student progress. 64.9% met their projected growth goals in English. 64% met the growth goals for math. This data is developing the focus for the school year. Mrs. Cook said they will “dig into the data” and will be bringing in some professional development specialists for teachers. ELA Writing needs improvement and they are starting to work on that now.

The school conducted its second school wide seminar today and it went very well.

Katie Moore gave the PTO Update. The school year has started very well. The Read-a-thon raised \$10,000 for PTO Projects. Ms. Moore wanted to thank the school librarian, Ms. Pearce, and her team for Literary Night. Around 300 attended and it was a great program. Teacher Appreciation day is tomorrow. Incentive packages for students are being discussed. On each student’s Chromebook are two programs: Lexia and Dream Box. The school wants to encourage use of these to improve reading scores. The PTO has purchased EMS supplies for the nurse; the needs were determined after the fire and should be delivered next week. The PTO purchased underwear for the school for emergency situations with students. Meadowfeed started last week; 25 students are already enrolled and this number will continue to be reevaluated. Mr. Jackson is starting a Distinguished Gentlemen’s Club; the PTO will look into ways to support this with incentives, such as t-shirts for participants. Mr. Jackson will be bringing in professionals; it is a role mentoring program. Ms. Geiger will be creating a similar program for girls.

Ms. Ely gave a report for the teachers. Literary Night was a tremendous success. Students and families packed the classrooms. The Padeia Seminar was held school wide today and they will

be scheduling another one in the next month. Overall, it has been a great start to the new school year.

Mrs. Cook asked for comments and concerns from the parents. Dr. Pruitt said she had written the principal concerning the broken picnic table and ceiling tiles that needed to be repaired. There continue to be questions as to why the Resource Officer is in the back of the school (she did explain that the school is looking for a solution). One parent was concerned that recess was being taken away for non-behaving students; this is not acceptable. Another concern is that with the new school administration, there needs to be a way to communicate school issues. But the hope is that if there is a concern, a solution is also recommended. The car rider pickup continues to be a problem; cars are cutting in line and blocking the roads on Galway and Old Knight Parkway. Last year, Officer Doire assisted with school traffic problems, but according to Mrs. Cook, this is not a part of the CRO's job responsibilities. Nancy Stoudenmire added that the speed of drivers is a problem as well. She has spoken to the principal at Hammond and administration at Dreher. The neighborhood concern is that a child will be terribly hurt.

Community Update: Nancy Stoudenmire said there are two upcoming activities for the neighborhood. On November 13 at 3:00, there will be a First Responders Appreciation Parade which will be going past the school. Last year's event was designated as the Community Program of the Year by the City in June. On December 11 from 12-6 at Woodlands Park, there will be a Holiday Festival sponsored by South Meadowfield Neighborhood Association. The PTO will have a table and sell refreshments. Over 30 vendors have signed up already. If any parents or teachers want to be a vendor, please contact her. Nancy will send details to Mrs. Cook on both of these events.

Mrs. Cook said on November 17, the school will be hosting a VIP Day luncheon; a Thanksgiving Dinner to give thanks to everyone who supports the school.

The next SIC Meeting will be on November 15th at 5:30 at the school.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Stoudenmire