

**Meadowfield Elementary School
School Improvement Council
Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:30pm (virtual)**

The monthly meeting of the MES School Improvement Council was called to order by Principal Lisa Davis. Those in attendance were Nancy Stoudenmire, Lisa Butler, Jonathan Comish, Christy Martin, Amanda Harris, Anna Moore, Arthur Coogler, Dr. Richard Moore, Maggie Adams, and Jessamine Grice.

Principal's Report:

School enrollment: holds steady around 640.

Testing: STAR testing results are in and results are good: 70% of kids have met growth index. From this testing, district has used ESSER funds to buy F&P Program for every teacher and one for the Special Education Department. The F&P gives a benchmark, given as a letter. There was a spontaneous report from teacher Lisa Butler about value of the program and its usefulness for teachers this year.

COVID: Despite the virus, Meadowfield is looking good. From the beginning of the school year, only three staff members have tested positive, and only three staff members have had to quarantine. Twenty-two students have tested positive and seventy-two students have been under quarantine. This information is public and can be found online on Richland One's COVID Dashboard. Meadowfield has done well considering the size of the student body. New DHEC regulations are expected out tomorrow. Based on these, some kids will be able to return sooner or not quarantine at all as a consequence of consistent mask wearing. There was a question from the floor regarding the continued use of masks. Principal Davis gave reassurance that masks are still being worn.

Calendar Items:

Today was Meadowfield's second school-wide seminar based on The Emperor's New Clothes by Hans Christian Andersen. The theme was "Integrity." Hope is expressed that parents will once again be allowed back into the school for seminar sometime this school year.

Next Friday, October 22 is a school holiday, conveniently timed with the South Carolina State Fair.

November 11 is Veterans' Day. A past plan was to provide a big breakfast. This year, students will be asked to bring in photos of family members in the Armed Services to share with the school through the morning News Show. A similar event was planned for Grandparents Day this past September as the school remains closed to visitors.

Attendance: Principal Davis expressed concern that a large number of Meadowfield families have children with poor attendance. As many as 60 children are close to their limit of missed days without an excuse and are potentially facing hearings and charges of truancy. Principal Davis asks for advice on the best way to reach out to all families and share the school policy on absences. Amanda Harris expressed frustration that the school policy on attendance is not clearly available to parents online. Principal Davis made a note to find out where it can be found online. Ms. Davis asks what the best method would be to reach families. Principal Davis distributes a weekly voicemail message and email to over 900 individuals each Sunday, but it is not clear which families are opening and reading the messages.

PTO Update from Anna Moore:

There has been one fundraiser since the last meeting, a Spirit Night at MOD Pizza which raised \$109.

Ms. Moore announces a Read-a-thon planned for this fall. Students will seek donations to be collected based on how much they read. It is expected that the Read-a-thon will raise a good bit of money. Question from Ms. Grice as to whether the PTO could sponsor a fundraiser at the school similar to the annual March of Dimes fundraiser. This potentially could work in the spring, but would need to be carefully scheduled so as to not overlap with March of Dimes. Ms. Moore is hopeful that in the spring of 2022 Meadowfield's carnival can return. It is traditionally a large event that attracts families from outside the Meadowfield student community.

The next Spirit Night is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, at Burger Tavern 77.

Teacher's Report from Ms. Lisa Butler:

Ms. Butler cheerfully reports that teachers are "rockin' and rollin'". Excitement about being back in school, having community, enthusiasm.

Parent's Concerns:

None.

Community Concerns:

Nancy Stoudenmire is now the President of the South Meadowfield Neighborhood Association which last week held an event for mayoral and city council candidates. At this event donations of school supplies were accepted and donated to Meadowfield. Meadowfield's music teacher, Ms. Shandra Rivers, was in attendance and said thank you. A Halloween scavenger hunt is planned by the SMNA for later in the month.

On Sunday, November 21st a First Responders Parade is planned after the success of a similar parade in 2020 in which an estimated 1000 people participated. SMNA is buying 50 PDQ gift cards from the PTO, and will give \$20 worth to each participating first responder. The SMNA has started Instagram account (@South_Meadowfield). Christmas trees will be for sale for display in yards and luminaries are planned for this year like last.

Question from Mr. Coogler regarding progress on awnings: Ms. Davis reports that the awning people are coming in the next month to start. Work will begin on the Galway Lane entrance, with the Olde Knight Parkway entrance being done last. There are no updates regarding "investigating and designing storm water management and parking lots at Meadowfield" as discussed at a previous board meeting.

There is mutual agreement to move future SIC meetings to 6pm to accommodate schedules.

Next SIC November 11, 2021 at 6pm

Reminder from Ms. Stoudenmire that on October 26, 2021 there is a school board member election.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm