

**Meadowfield Elementary School
School Improvement Council
Thursday, August 26, 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, Jonathan Comish, Floyd Jeffcoat, Christy Martin, Sylvia Rogers, Alexis Wright, Ade DeLong, Amanda Harris, Anna Moore, Arthur Coogler, Dr. Richard Moore, Sara Suber, Maggie Adams, and Jessamine Grice.

The meeting started with introductions, including new members Jonathan Comish, Christy Martin, Floyd Jeffcoat, Alexis Wright, Dr. Richard Moore, and Amanda Harris.

Elections of Officers:

Alexis Wright – Chairperson

Nancy Stoudenmire – Vice Chairperson

Jessamine Grice was appointed as Secretary to the SIC.

The Committee reviewed the SIC Bylaws which were last revised by the SIC in December 2017.

Principal's Report:

School enrollment: 640 students (334 boys/306 girls); 63% African American, 8% Hispanic/Latino, 21% Caucasian, 8% mixed race/other. Enrollment is down from 2019-20 school year (722), but up from the end of the 2020-21 school year (596).

Facilities: School facilities look good. There was discussion regarding the continuous efforts to pave the parking lot over "Lake Meadowfield." Principal Davis expressed optimism following a May 25, 2021 board meeting, during which time the Board voted to "investigate and design storm water and paving at Meadowfield." Additionally, several weeks earlier a contractor measured for awnings on the front of the school as well as the car pick-up line. A new district building coordinator was hired last December. Despite staff shortages, custodial staff are working hard through the summer to wax the floors and keep facilities clean. The building looks great.

Instructional methods: Due to the ongoing risks from COVID, teachers and students can't resume prior ways of teaching and learning. There is a discussion of mitigation measures in place and how Richland One has spent two waves of SR Funding. The District will use the third wave of SR funding to provide a each school with additional staff to meet student needs. For Meadowfield, we received a second reading interventionist and a math interventionist.

COVID: Principal Davis answered questions about protocols within MES. The nurse is responsible for children; the Principal is responsible for the staff. DHEC protocols are being followed. Children who test positive must isolate for 10 days. Siblings of those children must isolate as well, plus 10 additional days following the positive sibling's 10 days).

Virtual Instruction: There is no plan to shift to virtual instruction due to COVID during the 2021-22 school year. At some point, students may have to shift to virtual if a teacher is out, in which case Schoology will be used. There are currently 38 homeroom classroom teachers at MES. The Governor's proviso requires

that teachers be paid a stipend to teach both in person and virtually, but there is no money earmarked for this work. Therefore, the potential plan should a teacher be in quarantine is to create paper packets to complete at home. This was referred to as “Asynchronous Learning” during the 2020-21 school year.

Also in the Proviso, each district is only allowed 5% of students to do virtual learning. At MES there are between 15 and 20 students who were chosen randomly from a lottery and are doing virtual schooling. They are counted among MES’s total enrollment.

August 26, 2021 District Release: There was discussion of new guidelines released today regarding teachers and quarantining. “Close contact” for a teacher depends on vaccination status: vaccinated teachers can return to work and be monitored; vaccinated with symptoms or unvaccinated must quarantine 10 days. For teachers who test positive: Vaccinated teachers with COVID get paid leave; unvaccinated teachers with COVID must take their own sick leave.

Staffing: Principal Davis reports that all staff needs are filled. However, there are two positions of teachers who want to be interventionists at other schools, but they may not move until a new classroom teacher is hired in their place.

PTO Update from Anna Moore:

Lunch for staff on first Friday of the school year was appreciated. Popsicles in the park was rained out, but popsicles were offered during Open House which reached the whole student body. The Spirit Store was depleted at Open House which is good news and will permit the purchase of new inventory. No decision has been made as to whether MES can hold school-wide fundraising this year. The PTO is in good financial health due to previous fundraising.

From the floor:
No comments.

Council Members agree to hold SIC meetings the 2nd Thursday of every month. Decision to skip September and host the next meeting Thursday, October 14th at 6pm virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26pm.