Meeting Minutes (03/12/2024) DRAFT

with time ( ) and *action expected*

School Improvement Council
Edith L. Frierson Elementary, virtual meeting
Tuesday, March 12th 2024
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions – Members and Guests (2), *those in **bold** are voting*
   Attendees: **Ross Anderson, Josh Roberts, Kristi Harvey, Bethany Burnsed**, **Melissa Reese**, **Latrice Smalls**, **Audrey Mack**, **Pat Cline**, Deborah Grant, Brian McClure, Nicole Barnes, Tracae McClure, Bridget Beggs, Katie Pfeninger.

   Meeting Recording: https://fathom.video/share/xGXyCiFZz-VqKx2hx9F9d-jgcvhRhFFk
   Meeting Recording: audio1696762142.m4a - Google Drive

2. Approval of Minutes (2)
   Review on screen of Mtg 3 Minutes - ELF SIC 02.13.2024
   Meeting Minutes were revised to correct some misspelling of names.

   MOTION: A motion was made to approve the meeting 3 minutes as corrected (Josh Roberts). Motion Seconded (Melissa Reese). No discussion. Vote approved unanimously.

3. Principals Report (3) - School Update:
   a. Reading Across America Award Recognition: Edith L Frierson and Principal Smalls were recognized with an award at the CCSD Committee of the whole meeting on 3/11/24 for success in the Reading Across America initiative.
   b. Pause of 7th grade Montessori class: Principal Smalls met with district representatives including Jeffrey Borowy, who encouraged ELF to focus on student population and enrollment growth at the lower grade levels before expanding the Montessori to upper grade levels. There are several applications for new scholars at lower EL grade levels, however its noted that these new scholars may have applied to more than one school.
   c. SC Ready After-School tutorial Program: Test prep tutoring has been initiated and coordinated by one of our teachers (Name) for students grade 3 through 6 with scores within a specified range to assist in preparation for testing between May 13 through 17th. Signup is open (by invitation) until April 12th. Students with parents who've been invited should have received a link sent by the State already.

Action: Ms. Smalls will check if all the emails have been sent.

d. ELF School and Community Block party: Planned for March 23rd between 11 and 4pm. Please send invitations and information to anyone in the community interested to attend. Block Party Volunteers are still needed.

Actions: Ross Anderson to send to Angel Oak SIC Chair and Haut Gap Assistant Principal.
Action: Pat Cline to share with Mount Zion and St. Johns HS SIC's.
Action: Kristi Harvey to provide paper copies to Pat Cline on Sunday.

e. Positive Performance Data: Data on performance has shown very positive increases and if we continue this trajectory, it our school report card will look very good. We've already met some of the goals set forth by the district.

4. Committee Reports
   a. Historical marker – Audrey Mack:
      i. The committee has been meeting with Maggie Dangerfield, director of SIC for the entire district, who also supports Historical Markers. She's working with CCSD, Capital Projects Dept, and Archives and Records Dept. She's found extensive records on the initial property (1890's) until the most recent renovation (1990).
      ii. The committee would like to get input on the naming and location of the historical marker and are asking alumni, parents, and community members to fill out a survey to provide feedback on that. The school's original name was Rockville Elementary School, however in 1986 the school was renamed to Edith L Frierson the name of the first school principal.
      iii. There's a small wall from the original building which still exists and may be part of the historical marker because the building aesthetics were changed in the 1990 renovation.
      iv. It's easier to get State historical marker than Federal, so starting there.
      v. Proposed location of the marker is at the entrance gate of school.

      Action: Put some of old photographs collected in a powerpoint to share at the next meeting (Audrey Mack)

   b. Gymnatorium Multi-purpose Room – (ad hoc) – Ross Anderson, Bridget Beggs, Audrey Mack, Deborah Grant, Monica Smith (not present)
      i. 2 Meetings have taken place since Feb SIC meeting. Common ground has been found as to the approach. Goal is to engage the various diverse stakeholders to engage with CCSD leadership in order to voice the need from their perspective and answer relevant questions to the project.
      ii. Principal Smalls mentioned that this topic is under discussion right now as it relates to the adding a new primary class, which would require more

space and funding that is required to create that space for the 24/25 school year. The timing is appropriate to engage and make any voices or questions heard.

iii. It was suggested that the team use consistent terminology to explain the need and what is being asked for, and that "Gymnatorium" may be more appropriate. It was suggested that the cafeteria is already considered a "multi-purpose room". It was also offered that the existing open work order specifies the need as a "multi-purpose room".

iv. Next steps are:

1. Collect all relevant background information.
2. Identify key challenges and expected benefits to the school and communities of Wadmalaw, Johns Island, and Charleston County
3. Schedule a meeting for the Ad Hoc committee with Ms. Anita Huggins, Mr. Jeffrey Borowy, and any other CCSD VIP's
4. Host an information table at Community Block Party and collect signatures for a petition of support from parents, teachers, and community members
5. Conduct outreach to CCSD Board members to bring awareness to the need and the history, wherever possible
6. Apply for this topic to be on the agenda for the April 29th Board meeting, and have a diverse representation to voice the need from each perspective.

Action: Write up the background information and draft a petition for sharing and collect signatures and emails at the Community Block Party (Josh Roberts)
Action: Schedule meeting with Anita Huggins and Jeffrey Borowy (Audrey Mack and Ross Anderson)
Action: Compile the background information to support the discussions (Bridget Beggs)
Action: Request an agenda item be added to the April 29th Board meeting so we can make public comment. (Ross Anderson and Melissa Reese) Board of Trustees / Home (ccsdschools.com)
Action: Determine the best name for the project and communicate it to the team and at the Community Block Party (Principal Smalls).
Action: Meet with and mention the new facility need with Charleston County Parks and Recreation leadership (Bridget Beggs)

c. Reading Goals, Literacy Plan – Samantha Kurtz (Not Present), interim Crystal Blue (Not Present) (2)

i. Read Across America has been happening this week.
ii. We don't have an update for March Reading numbers yet.
iii. The school has been hosting virtual author visits to keep interest in reading high and many households have really enjoyed that.

d. Salt Marsh Education and Engagement – Taylor Bensinger, (not Present) Lisa Vandiver (10) (Not Present)
    i. DNR continues their visit every 2 weeks
    ii. Salt marsh grasses are being grown in the greenhouse
e. Garden Committee – Hope Ivanova (2) (not present)
    i. The garden committee and greenheart would like to honor Linda Geronilla who was instrumental in establishing this greenheart and community garden effort.
    ii. A table will be setup at the Community Block party to sell some of the plants and seedlings from her yard, as she had an extensive collection.
    iii. Neighborhood forest, (www.neighborhoodforest.org) was introduced by Ross Anderson as a program providing free, native trees for kids to plant.

Action Item: Send Neighborhood forest information to Melissa Reese to share with the Garden committee. (Ross Anderson)

f. Tennis: Ashley Carrigan (2) (not present)
    i. Last week of spring practice is wrapping up on March 14th.
g. Mentoring Program – Ross Anderson (3)
    i. No updates from Ross or Josh
    ii. Principal Smalls shared that Mentoring Lunches (monthly) program is being launched which brings outside mentors in to share lunch with classrooms. For this effort, mentors are not matched with students, rather they come in and spend time with classrooms, play games, have lunch, and talk about behavioral, social, career, and other topics.

Action: Send Mentoring Lunches information via email to Pat Cline. (Principal Smalls)

h. SIC Annual report to Parents
    i. Principal Smalls shared an example of a document which could be modified into a report on school initiatives and progress from 2024.
    ii. Discussion took place regarding the required format. Should it be a 1 pager front and back, bi-fold, or Trifold?
    iii. More details need on each of initiatives and success stories.
    iv. Bridget Beggs suggested new school photos be taken which highlight the new pavilion, garden, and other. She offered to use a drone to capture these as she does Real Estate Photography.

Action: Decide the format and create a first draft of the report which highlights progress. (Kristi Harvey / Principal Smalls)

Action: Take aerial photos of the school grounds and of the Community Block Party. (Bridget Beggs / Ross Anderson)

5. Public Comment:
    i. Pat Cline shared that she joined the James Island Math and Science fair, where all the elementary schools joined together at the middle school and turned in science or math projects. All the schools abbreviations were listed on the T-shirt. It was a strong message of unity and community.
    ii. 5-2-1 Initiative Proposed: Melissa Reese has suggested 5-2-1 as a more appropriate alternative to the "One Island" initiative discussed at the D9 collaborative. 5 is for the 5 schools, 2 is for the 2 Islands (Wadmalaw / Johns), and 1 is for Community. Reason for this is Wadmalaw and Johns island have different identities and we want to highlight what's special about each of those, while still acknowledging we are 1 community from an education standpoint. This suggestion was well received by everyone on the call and will be further explored with the other schools SIC's.

Action: Discuss the 5-2-1 initiative with Mt. Zion and St. Johns schools SIC's (Pat Kline)
Action: Discuss the 5-2-1 initiative with Angel Oak and Haut Gap SIC's (Ross Anderson)
Action: Establish a 5-2-1 committee to next meeting agenda. (Kristi Harvey)

6. Announcements:
    a. PTA: Brad Kolata was recognized for his outreach and engagement efforts to call all the members of the PTA and have conversations, answer questions, gain input.
    b. It was agreed that the meeting time change to 5:30 was good, and we'd schedule future meetings from 5:30 to 6:30.

7. Review assignments and Agenda for next meeting: tabled – Ross will send out meeting minutes.

8. Meeting Adjourned: 6:27 pm
Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.