

Ford School Council Meeting

February 4, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:35am

Roll Call-

In attendance-
Cindy Kennedy
Tom Cole

Absent-
Jami Frost (pre-existing conflict)
Libby Mitchell (pre-existing conflict)
Maxine Chriszt
Courtney Kelly
Kelly Burnette

Guest -
Colleen Cauffiel

1. Old Business - No old business was discussed.
2. Review and approve Bylaws- deferred quorum not present
3. Planning Discussion – deferred, quorum not present
4. STEM – presented by Colleen Cauffiel
 - FES has been pursuing STEM for the past year and a half. STEM certification is part of the Tactical Action Plan for FES. Currently there is only one elementary school in Cobb County (a magnet school) that is STEM certified so this will be a significant accomplishment for FES and the Cobb County School District.
 - State evaluators will conduct a pre-visit on Feb 21st.
 - o Will provide recommendations and assessment of where we are and what we need to focus on to achieve certification
 - o Will determine timeline for final certification visit
 - Support needed from School Council
 - o Get the message out to improve support by parents and community
 - o Help gather data base of parents with STEM-related background that can mentor and participate in STEM activities. Perhaps integrate “STEM Parent” program similar to Earth Parent to augment curriculum.
 - More to follow, Colleen will attend next meeting to update on pre-visit results.

5. Budget Update

- Budget shortfall is not expected to be as large as previously projected (~\$79M)
- Governor is emphasizing education and additional funding expected
- Tax Digest better than expected so more revenue for schools.
- Not expected to implement the following cost savings measures.
 - 1) Furlough days
 - 2) Increase class size
 - 3) Reduce #school days. (hold to 180)
 - 4) Delay of step increase (should occur in July)
- **Action: School Council Members should review budget activity tally sheet from previous meeting and develop a prioritized list that can be applied to the budget deficit when it is announced by next school council meeting (Feb 25th).**
- Budget will be finalized in May 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am