

Ford School Council Meeting

November 6, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:30am

Roll Call-

In attendance-
Cindy Kennedy
Courtney Kelly
Kelly Burnette
Libby Mitchell
Tom Cole

Observer

Annette Cradock

Unable to attend-

Jami Frost
Maxine Christz

1. Old Business-

No old business was brought to order or discussed.

2. FES Council Objectives-

We discussed establishing school council (SC) objectives and ensuring the objectives align with the FES strategic/tactical plan and the FES Council Bylaws. We agreed to further refine the objectives and consider other areas we may want to address. Next steps will be formation of action plans, assigning responsibilities, and implementing action plans to achieve objectives. Concepts discussed were:

Objective 1- Help align direction of FESF, PTSA, Partners in Ed and STEaM Council to achieve strategic school plan (SSP) objectives.

-Discussed the different members of our school and how we would like to pull together to work together towards our SSP plan.

(-added in Partners in Ed into objective #1)

Goal A-Help to monitor (remove coordinate) revenue generating efforts for near term needs and sustainment.

(Committee discussed that this may fit in with the SSP in a way, but it may not be objective of our responsibility at this time. Changing the word coordinate to monitor.

Agreed to add this objective to our first objective to make it a goal)

Goal B- Support activities to improve student problem solving skills. Also tucks into the first objectives

Objective 2- Enhance communications with parents and the community.

Goal A - Survey FES families to understand concerns and needs.

Objective 3 – Support activities to improve student creativity and problem solving skills.

3. Survey –

During the previous SC meeting we discussed the need to survey parents to gain insights on areas of concern that should be addressed. Survey will be simple, take about 5 minutes to complete, and provide actionable information. Potential survey topic areas are:

Fund raising –how to be most effective

Communications – what are the best methods?

Communications – is information being provided effective?

No decisions were made and the SC will consider additional areas and structure of a survey. Annette commented that Cobb County is conducting a survey of families and information from that survey may be informative to the SC as well.

4. Bylaws-

The bylaws on file are “model” bylaws that need to be tailored to be specific to FES. There are several items in the model bylaws that require decisions by the SC. These areas were discussed. Tom will update the bylaws consistent with discussions during the meeting and provide for all council members to review, modify as needed, and vote on at the next SC meeting on Dec 17th. Some of the discussion areas from the meeting follow:

Members’ terms should be staggered so that the SC always has at least half of the members with experience.

-Next year we may need to add a few new members in order to have terms staggered OR we can have some as a 1 year term in order to have our work continue and not have a new council have to recreate goals and objectives from scratch.

-Terms can be negotiated. We agreed with 2 year term and you may serve more than one term since these are elected positions.

-Full consensus will be asked at the next meeting when we are all in attendance.

5. Meetings-

- The model bylaws require a minimum of 4 meetings per year. We were in agreement that we will need to meet at least once a month to meet our responsibilities and make progress on achieving our objectives.

-Future meetings already scheduled- Dec 17th Feb 25th March 25th

- Meetings are from 7:30-8:30 AM in the conference room at Ford Elementary.
- Secretary will send meeting dates and times to the Ford Website and also the Marietta Daily Journal in order to try to gain more parent involvement.

6. Strategic Communications-

- Start posting minutes and meeting dates on our Ford Website to insure transparency and encourage community participation.
- Create section on the website created for the School Council. Secretary will work with the Media Specialist to help with this.
- When we have full attendance, we will possibly look at assigning responsibility for strategic communications.
- All SC members are responsible to engage parents, talk about issues and concerns, and represent these positions at meetings.

7. Open Discussion-

- How do we see our Objectives working? We discussed need to develop action plans and implement activities to achieve objectives.
- Maybe having our committee sit in on some other committees meetings (i.e., PTSA, Ford Foundation, STEM Council) so that we can see how we can help attain strategic plan alignment and guide priority of efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26am