

Ford School Council Meeting

February 25, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:30am

Roll Call-

In attendance-

Jami Frost

Libby Mitchell

Cindy Kennedy

Maxine Chriszt

Kelly Burnette

Tom Cole

Absent-

Courtney Kelly

1. Old Business - Minutes from Feb 4th meeting approved.
2. Budget – Issues related to the CCSD budget were briefly discussed. Individual schools have previously been solicited for ideas on ways to trim the budget. CCSB does not require additional input from school councils. Because of increased tax revenues, the budget crunch is not as bad this year but not sure until the state budgets have been approved how much will need to be trimmed from the CCSD budget.
3. Adverse Weather Impacts
 - The main issue facing the CCSD is the loss of instructional time from the “snow days”. Six instructional days were lost due to adverse weather conditions. Because Governor Deal declared a state of emergency during the weather situation, the State Education Board will not require that the days be made up. However, CCSD has asked each individual school to develop a plan on how to address the lost instructional time, especially in core areas, as the testing period approaches.
 - The Ford School Council discussed how much instructional time was lost and considered options from the “best practice” suggestions made by the CCSD that could be implemented at Ford. Upper elementary school grade teachers sent home extra work and provided online activities to be completed by the students during the weather situation, adding additional online assessments and training to the homework schedule, and tutoring after school is already in place for students in need of additional support. Dr Frost plans to contact parents once the Ford plan has been finalized.

4. Bylaws –

- The school council bylaws were reviewed and updated. Several changes to the Ford School Council Bylaws were discussed.
- Highlights of the updates are:
 - 1) An additional 8th member will be added to the Council beginning with the new school year. This person will represent a “Partner in Education” and ***Dr Frost volunteered to reach out to those partners to identify someone who will be willing to represent this important group on the Council.***
 - 2) The bylaws set the terms of service to two years and permit someone to serve more than one two year term if elected.
 - 3) The draft bylaws included language to meet once a month or 9 times a year. That language was changed to be consistent with the Georgia state minimum requirement of 4 meetings per year. The school council at their option can meet more often.
 - 4) The bylaws includes a provision that a Council member may be removed from the Council should they miss more than 50 percent of the meetings.
 - 5) The School Council terms will run September 1 – August 31 to ensure continuous service from school year to school year and the terms of the Council Officers will also run for two year spans.
- Cindy Kennedy made a motion to approve the bylaws as amended during the meeting. Libby Mitchell seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. STEM Certification (Fall 2014)

- The council discussed the Ford preparation for the upcoming fall STEM Certification visit by the state certification team. A preliminary visit by Gilda Lyons, State STEM coordinator went very well, with several positive attributes of the Ford program highlighted by Ms Lyons and constructive suggestions for needed preparation for the fall certification visit. Those persons on the Council that had the opportunity to meet with the STEM staff felt positive about the visit by Ms Lyons and about being able to adequately address suggestions made for the fall visit. The School council acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the Ford staff and especially Ms. Colleen Cauffiel and Ms. Catherine Padgett.
- We discussed improving how we generate revenue to support STEM activities. The council discussed trying to find parents who would be willing to help identifying and writing grant submissions. ***Kelly Burnette agreed to lead and effort to establish a grant writing committee***

6. Survey

- The Council discussed how to assess opportunities and interests from the families. One possible way to do that would be to conduct a short survey soliciting both parent knowledge of fundraising efforts and also of professional expertise and skills. If a survey is used we also discussed the need to collaborate with the PTSA and Ford Foundation.
- **Cindy Kennedy agreed to develop a draft survey of no more than 5 or 6 questions to be reviewed and discussed at the next Council meeting on March 25, 2014.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am. Next council meeting in Mar 25, 7:30am