

School Council Meeting Minutes

Lindley Middle School

March 7, 2018

Present: Josephine Waldron, Melanie Allen, Njeri Fulwood, Martha Williams, Sabrina Richardson, Dr. Darsha Brooks, LeResa James, Tre Hutchins, Sonya Spivey, Unique Clay, Russell Clay, Valerie Hughley, Angela Kovachi

Call to Order

Mrs. Waldron called the meeting to order at 8:04am

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Waldron led the pledge of allegiance

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Motion called to approve agenda and the minutes. Motion approved.

Special Guest – Angela Kovachi, CTAE Middle School Coordinator

Mrs. Kovachi started out by sharing some background information about her Department. The Career Technology and Agricultural Education Program used to be referred to as Vocational Education. Now the CTAE department has a strong STEM focus. All Cobb County School District Middle Schools were equipped with Family Consumer Science Labs, however due to the rift that took place in 2009 across the county, many of the programs ended. Some that still exist are Business Education, Career Connections and Health Sciences. The key is to look at the High Schools to see what they offer. Perkins funding is for High Schools. The Engineering side is the most expensive of the programs. Richardson asked how do we get our FACS Lab up and running, what certifications are needed to teach classes in middle school and what are the recommendations for our school? Kovachi started out by asking about the technology we have in our building. She expressed that it would be expensive to fund an operational STEM Lab with the 3D Printer, Lego Robotics, computer access and needed software/infrastructure. She also added that the CTAE department would not be able to fund a new lab. Therefore, the type of programs depends on the school and what they already have in place. She said that it is also hard to find a teacher to teach the engineering class with the correct certification. She suggested that we visit Lovinggood to see an example of a middle school program that is already in place. Her department has a yearly budget of about a \$12K to fund all of the middle school programs. There is a possibility that the District would be able to assist with starting a program. She also suggested that we look at relaunching our FACS Labs. We would need to start by looking at the needs of the lab. The fact that MS labs are set up similar to home use

makes them less expensive than the HS labs that are set up for industrial use. Hutchins asked about programs at the 6th Grade Academy. Kavachi responded with nothing at that level yet. He also asked about JrROTC programs in any of the middle schools. None exists in any of the middle schools. James asked about the Pathways offered at the High School level and seeing what we can offer at the middle school level. She suggested that maybe we can look at AVT since all high schools offer that pathway as a way to increase continuity across the feeder pattern. Hughley suggested that we look at other Districts and that are a few great programs going on in Atlanta. Hughley also inquired about transporting kids to other schools that offer these programs under school choice.

Richardson thanked the speaker for her time.

Report of the Principal – Given by Sabrina Richardson, Assistant Principal

Saturday School & March Madness

Over 200 students came out for the first session that took place on March 3. The program is providing domain specific assistance to all students. We have three more Saturdays for the program. Testing will begin on April 10 for 8th grade students and on April 16 for 7th Grade students. 8th grade students will complete all four categories – Math, ELA, Sci and SS and 7th grade students will complete ELA and Math. March Madness is a Schoolwide competition for students while engaging in Milestone preparation. They will have an opportunity to win prizes and compete as a team!

Dr. Brooks shared information about the success of our Social Studies Literacy Night. It was a Fair and Curriculum Night all in one. She stated that this was the best one ever! Students shared their projects, participated in a live wax museum while portraying historical figures, used technology to compete against their parents in “Are you smarter than and 8th Grader, as well as used Smartboards to convey content. Many of our community partners were present as well as the 6th Grade Academy staff and students. Our State Representative, Erica Thomas was also present.

College and Career Fair – Richardson invited parents out to the Fair on March 8. We will have over 60 vendors and the Mobile Career Center for parents. This year we collaborated with the United Way to make this event the best ever.

Open Discussion

Waldron asked about school safety and Code Red drills. Allen shared about what teachers do and what students do during a Code Red Drill. Brooks and Richardson shared about the administrative responsibilities for Code Red Drills. Waldron’s concern was regarding a student as the perpetrator and if our drills cover that scenario. The team also shared that our students are definitely not afraid to speak up and speak out about what is going on in the building. Hutchins also added that if a student attends the school then they will already be aware of the procedures and will more than likely know how to get around it. He also added that the drills are taking place in an organized setting, and not when the students are transitioning or at lunch. Richardson shared that we had a situation a few years back that was a Code Red and we had an entire grade level in the lunchroom. Students were moved to classes safely. U. Clay asked about how many code red drills are done each year. We do them monthly. Brooks also

added that everyone in the building has been trained from the clerks, to the custodians, to the lunchroom staff.

Open Discussion

Hutchins shared with the group that a digital marquee is good but it is best when purchased by the district. He also shared that the district will only provide maintenance and repair for the sign if they install it. He referenced his comments based on his experience with Pebblebrook. Bryant used SPLOST to pay for their sign. Hughley inquired about an overhead crosswalk being built and she inquired about getting the Police Department to put up a mobile sign to get people to slow down in the school zone on Veterans Memorial. She asked about the role of the campus officer and if we had one or two officers on duty. Richardson answered her questions. She brought to our attention that some of the students were opening the doors in the back during intramurals.

Waldron brought up Earth Day, which is celebrated on Sunday, April 22 and wanted to use this as an opportunity for our student groups to do community service. She wants to reach out to parents with landscaping companies to see what they will donate and reach out to other businesses in the community for additional support. She will reach out to Keep Cobb Beautiful and let the Council know the outcome and plan. R. Clay added that everything boils down to funding and that we need to look at the homeowners in the area so that we can get their support whether they have kids at the school or not. Hutchins added that we need to contact the Mableton Improvement Coalition as an avenue for support. The real estate market in this area is booming.

- **Dates for Future School Council Meetings**
 - None scheduled
 - Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, 2018

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the School Council, Giles adjourned the meeting at 9:09 am.