

LSGT Minutes 1-10-19

8:15 a.m. in the STEM Lab

In attendance:

Richard Fisher, Principal

Daniel Gibson, Teacher

Tracy Ingram, Teacher

JaNay Windmoller

Kristen Morrison, Parent

Hans Schmeisser, Parent

Angela Stewart, Teacher

Susan Parsons, Literacy Coach

Mrs. Windmoller motioned to open the meeting and Mr. Schmeisser seconded the motion.

Mr. Gibson motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and Mrs. Morrison seconded that motion. Copies of those minutes were distributed.

Mr. Fisher spoke about the state of the school and distributed a copy of the LSGT budget.

- discipline is at an all time low - very likely due in large part to our new House System for fourth and fifth grades and our school wide focus on the 10 Essentials.
- many visitors have come through the building this year and have given very positive feedback
- visitors include: GA DOE representatives, RESA, Tift County BOE, teachers and administrators from other schools within the county, and Carissa Rowland from the Schlecthey Center
- Mr. Morrison asked if after school clubs and activities are offered - Fisher responded not at this time but plans for the future are in place as we adjust to having fourth and fifth graders in the building

Mr. Fisher asked the team to provide feedback on the school calendar.

Negatives reported by the team:

- getting out for Christmas so close to Christmas Eve
- coming back on a Friday this year
- not having two full weeks off for Christmas
- not having a full week off for Thanksgiving

Positives reported by the team:

- Mrs. Morrison said Christmas break worked well for her as a working mom

Suggestions:

- Mr. Schmeisser suggested opening a dialogue with ABAC regarding aligning our holiday and spring breaks
- Mrs. Windmoller added the point of dual enrolled students having no spring break and holiday time with families due to the schedule conflicts between Tift County and ABAC.

Thoughts on half days in the schedule:

- Mrs. Morrison said half days are inconvenient for working parents
- Mr. Gibson pointed out half days do provide a breakfast and lunch for those students who might not have meals at home.

Discussion of the Budget:

- Mrs. Parsons spoke about the staff development trip to the Ron Clark Academy and Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Ingram (both attended the RCA visit) also spoke to the powerful impact of this trip which provided powerful and lasting training. The benefits are spreading through the school as evidenced by visible classroom environment and teaching strategy changes. The energy in the school has been noticeably changed by this training.
- Mr. Schmeisser stated, "There's a design lineage between prisons and schools. You walk around here and you see you're trying to break out of that."
- Mrs. Morrison stated, "It's bringing the goodness of the Atlanta metro area education to South Georgia where we also have the small community environment to add to that."
- Mrs. Stewart added that an additional benefit of the RCA training is the atmosphere of celebration as we support our students and they support each other with a genuine and high level of energy.
- Mr. Fisher asked that \$500 from the budget be used for snacks
- Mr. Gibson asked that money from the STEM portion of the budget be utilized to bring the Dancing Drums program to our school. Mr. Fisher said he would investigate that possibility.

Mr. Fisher asked that the agenda be amended to postpone Mrs. Ingram's sharing about the STEM Lab in the interest of time. All members agreed to move STEM Lab discussion to the next meeting.

Mrs. Stewart shared about the Buzzing with Books program which is designed to promote reading for all children. The program currently gives out various reward items including candy and t-shirts at different levels and celebrates readers in several ways including walking the red carpet and having their picture made for a take home certificate. She shared the hope that staff will purchase t-shirts for the program to help spread excitement.

Her question for the team is how can we as a school encourage more participation from students?

- Mrs. Parsons suggested having parent volunteers come in to read with students who do not routinely have someone to read with them at home and sign off on their sheet.
- Mrs. Morrison stated, "I believe you are doing an awesome job now but I would love to come in and read with kids."
- Mr. Schmeisser added that ABAC's library has a large children's section and wondered if there could be a way to utilize that as a reward or encouragement for students.
- Mr. Fisher suggested the possibility of a trip to ABAC's library for Lexile Parties.

The meeting was closed by Mr. Fisher. Minutes by Tracy Ingram