

ANCS Governing Board Meeting Notes- DRAFT
January 21, 2014 Meeting
Middle Campus

Present: Matt Underwood , Grace Burley, Michelle Newcome, Alice Jonsson, Suzanne Mitchell, Mitch White, Gabe Damiani, Sara Wilcox, Mary Campbell-Jenkins, , Greg Parent.

Visitors Present: Lara Zelski, Cathey Goodgame, Kari Lovell, Maya Jenkins, Elayna Wilson, Sonia Fuller, Kristian Vatalaro, Myron Polster, Susan, Taylor, Beth Wells

Meeting started at 6:36 PM.

Suzanne made a motion to approve the notes from the December 18th Governing Board Meeting. They will be amended to add visitors, otherwise approved.

Principals Open Forum

Cathey Goodgame – prepping students for 8th grade tests, middle school kids are prepping to do a lot of the speaking for the upcoming Parent Night for 5th graders coming up to the middle next year.

Lara Zelski – Shared about “No Name Calling Week” – goal is to define bullying and rise above by being part of the caring majority. The kids made a Peace Garden with flowers in hall at elem.

PTCA, Sonia Fuller – great Dec., raised \$3000 at Barnes and Noble, gave gift cards to all faculty and staff, planning Bingo Night, Run With the Wolves, had notaries to help with registration, allergy presentation meeting was well-attended.

New Board Member Nomination Committee Update: Grace, Suzanne, and Mary Campbell. Need parents from the Middle Campus for the board. Timeframe - nominees will be at the next meeting (February).

Gene Pullen from Southface Engineer is doing Energy Audit that’s tied into the refinance of middle campus building. They are looking at bills and all over building. She is presenting her recommendations for conserving energy, helping to apply for a grant to improve the situation. It could help us with taxes, too. Also there’s the Grants to Green Program. Southface is the technical assistant for the program. We would need to match funds, as much as \$100,000.

Did slide show. The per-square-foot cost is \$1.30 at the middle campus. Not bad. Westminster is at 1 dollar.

Urinals use one gallon per flush. There are pint flush urinals available. 88 percent savings. Can use sensor flush conversions. Don't use on water closets because they flush when you don't want them to.

LED fixtures use about half the electricity. Burned out fixtures still use electricity so we should remove the bulbs. Put an electronic ignition gas range so pilots are burning constantly.

Lighting would be about \$100,000 to replace, which matches the grant nicely.

Atlanta Better Building initiative – commit to reducing use by 20 percent, by 2020. Non-binding. Would love to get feedback from us. Grants to Green Letter of Intent due Friday - Matt said it's done. All of this was just the middle campus.

Suzanne recommended we start making official SPLOST asks, for the boiler for example. Matt doesn't have a problem with this. How much useful life is in the boiler? It's currently past its life. Kari said it needs some major repairs that we have been putting off.

Proposed Calendar Changes for 2014-2015: Matt would like help solving a problem - merging the two campuses and 90 employees (?) larger numbers of students, increased external demands that are consuming time, there are only three times per year when the two campuses can get together to do substantive work, at one location they only have 45 to 60 min to collaborate at the end of the day which isn't enough. There are diverse needs of students, would like to arrive at something to solve these issues after a month.

Discussed changes to calendar (in Power Point)
Looking to go to a version of a Balanced Calendar.

Michelle is concerned that the configuration of breaks is important to consider – could be stressful on parents. A day here and there is easier in her opinion. Is the end of school changing going to present issues? Some parents have kids in ANCS and traditional APS schools.

Grace asked about shifting to starting earlier. Would that be more impactful? End of year people are kind of burned out.

Matt – survey data suggests that school starts too early as it is (parents responded).

Cathey – had balanced calendar in Decatur – never will be a perfect fit.
Kids and adults were more energized overall with the balanced calendar. Inter-

sessions can provide support for kids who need more time. Decatur calendar is shifted by a few days, not big difference.

Campbell –are we creating two tiered world? Kids who need enrichment are in school, but others aren't. Maybe the enrichment being handled well is key.

Lara feels that the Saturday School has pluses and minuses - Saturdays compete with rec time. This calendar creates more opportunities for helping kids (and some different kids perhaps).

Mitch - be prepared for parent resistance. Balance is better for kids who regress. Thinks this is proven in academic research.

Suzanne asked are there some concerns are over Sat enrichment? Matt, yes. How does early release day help working families? What happens when one kid is at school and the other is at home? Harder to ask for a large block of time off for parents? Is losing both Labor and Memorial day an issue? Can we start earlier so one is protected?

Matt – In the week off, there would two days of the week – no kids. The other three some kids would be there.

Teacher planning and teacher work days are different – Lara Torn between professional learning and letting teachers work in their rooms. Lara feels we need more solid professional learning time.

Suzanne would like more information about how teachers are using their time and would like more options provided.

Alice shared that increased teacher planning equals improved student outcomes.

Greg – what percentage of kids are doing the enrichment? Are we making a big change for a small group? Has some concerns about how families with two people working outside of the home would handle whole chunks of time off. Are we using the day as efficiently as possible? Are we using technology to connect teachers to the best of our ability to help with the planning issues? And to collaborate?

Matt – need more focused time together and it's possible for families to do the Balanced Calendar. More collaborative time helps students.

Gabe- do we need more feedback from parents in the community? Not just this small group? Matt said yes to survey. Suzanne says take-home survey.

Grace – if the community doesn't want it and we do it anyway, what will happen? We need to set ourselves up for success. The enrichment could be for excelling students, too.

Kari – single parents would have an easier time breaking up paying for camps, staff gets burned out trying to address issues that could be addressed with the whole staff in one room.

Discussion about tabling calendar discussion.
Group gave Matt some questions to answer.

Mitch – consider a late start day?

Will it change cost of after care?

Staffing – usually we use teachers- are they going to miss that collaboration time?

Could we add time to core subjects instead of related arts?

How does it benefit the middle campus? Has academic achievement improved at the middle?

Would like to see other options.

Is learning time decreased?

Michelle moved to table discussion until Feb meeting with decision to be made at the March meeting. Motion approved.

Update: Conference – GA Charter Schools Leadership Conference coming up.

SEACS meeting and State of the Cluster Meeting: we spoke briefly got positive feedback, step in right direction.

SEACS - there was a discussion about metrics and data analysis.

APS still had NCS and Middle Campus separated.

We need to address the fact that APS has us separated. It impacts our scores. Value Added was not talked about.

Grace wants a board member or LSC chair or PTA President present at SEACS meetings.

NYU report – not a big impact

8:50 reconvening meeting

Board Report

Accountability and Compliance: Strategic Plan coming along well. Having very productive meetings. Is staying true to the retreat.

Policy Manual – We have content for all of it. It needs to be plugged in and reviewed.

Gabe and Kari - Business Operations – hit two big rocks on the finance side, didn't touch the reserves. 2015 budget coming soon. And some next steps on the financing plan. Cheryl and Mitch created a tool to improve maintenance requests. Nice simple and free.

Mitch White Virtual File Cabinet – by the end of the school year.

Mitch completed a draft of the technology and it will be added to understand costs.

We have a substantial cost coming up because the teacher computers are old. Have we budgeted for it?

A team will be developed to present in April maybe May – Mike, Cheryl, Mitch, Kari, some teachers, and some parents will be on team.

Shifts may require professional development.

Action item: approve the technology task force and Mitch will lead it. Approved.

Kari – Benefits – put our information out to market – projected 5% increase not surprising. No plans came back where we would really save any money. We negotiated with Coventry. Our rate was reduced to 14% increase. Finance committee met and decided that we should stick with Coventry. We are happy with them. Few complaints from group. Some increase. Staff pays 25% of premiums and pays a little more now. For school that's \$55,000.00 for ANCS. We'll keep taking it to market every year. We are in open enrollment now.

Action item: motion to approve projected \$55,000.00 dollar expenditure to approve Coventry to provide insurance to ANCS. Approved.

Kari- we need to budget for replacing computers each year.

Fund development – Sarah we are at \$67,976.65 for year. Last month was a great month. We have six months left. \$27,000 Teacher Quality grant was received. (check in her report) We will have mobile bidding at Auction.

Are doing a phone campaign Feb 6th.

Personnel - Leadership has done a lot of work on new requirements. The school is in good shape with how we evaluate people. Ex: they go in pairs to observe people. Creates more meaningful feedback for teachers.

By early Feb all teachers will have been through the first cycle of observations, which is good in terms of the timeline.

Will be exploring wage scales and what the options are.

More ED Report – re-enrollment process underway .

Are we doing anything special to increase diversity? Putting fliers up around the city, yard signs are going up around the city, contacting some Pre-K programs and preschool, going around to different neighborhoods to make direct contact with people.

Open Business: email – let's share it on Social Media about Abrams bill

Meeting adjourned at 9:48.