Briarlake Elementary School  
School Council Meeting

January 19, 2017  
Briarlake Media Center 1 p.m.

Members Present: Chair, Deborah Martin-Gerstle; Vice Chair, Anjevon Smith; Secretary, Ellyn Cochran; Parent Representative, Jennifer Petrich; Teacher Representatives, Ms. Wise and Ms. Law; Principal, Jamela Lewis; Academic Challenge Coordinator: Jin Choy

Meeting was attended by non-voting members, Sonya Tinsley-Hook, Mrs. Stansfield

1. Call to Order
   1. Meeting was Called to Order by Debbie Martin-Gerstle at 1:05
2. Inspiration
   1. Inspiration was provided by Laurie Law (Perspective, looking at big picture) and Anjevon Smith (the movie “Hidden Figures”)
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda

**Laurie Law moved to approve the agenda**

**Deb Wise seconded**

**All voted Yay**

**Agenda approved**

1. Approval of Minutes

**Debbie Martin-Gerstle moved to approve the October Minutes**

**Laurie Law seconded**

**All voted Yay**

**Minutes approved**

1. Recognition of Visitors
   1. Visitors for this meeting were PTA Co-President Sonya Tinsley-Hook and Mrs. Stansfield
2. New Parent Rep Approval – Jennifer Petrich will take the position previously held by Jared Cobb whose resignation was accepted at the last meeting.

**Laurie Law moved to approve Jennifer Petrich as new parent representative**

**Deb Wise seconded**

**All voted Yay**

**New Parent Rep, Jennifer Petrich, approved**

1. Principal’s Report
   1. Attendance and Safety Updates –
      1. Current Enrollment - 398
   2. Safety
      1. Completed Safe School Review
      2. Took recommendations of mock audit
      3. Planning for practice evaluation drill (was scheduled for tomorrow, but will be postponed until Monday).
   3. Attendance
      1. Using Tableau for attendance, the data shows that: there are 3.1 average days absent for students now. Students allowed maximum of 6 days absent.
      2. Talked about celebrating student attendance at the STEM day celebration
   4. CCRPI Results (handout included)
      1. Review of data – heavy weights on achievement (includes mastery, readiness, and graduation), as well as student progress, closing the gap and challenge points
      2. Since 2012 (first year of CCRPI) our trend has been generally consistent
      3. Performance at a glance – Overview includes a decrease over time, attributed in part to change from CRCT to Georgia Milestone.
      4. Comparative Glance – Briarlake holds trends with other schools
      5. Principal Plan Moving Forward: Data Analysis to show progress, and Building Rigor. Let the data drive what we do (emphasize rigor and structure).
         1. Considering Before and After School tutorial that might be used as an after-school opportunity (see afterschool discussion follow-up later in agenda)
2. Parent Requested Items:
   1. Communication from Teachers
      1. Request to get updates from teachers on what they are doing
         1. Teachers will be guided to provide a review on their website about what they are working on
         2. Hard to support learning at home if you don’t know what is happening
      2. Suggestions:
         1. Suggested email to families when the unit changes
         2. Administration is considering adding themselves to the remind apps.
         3. Suggested celebrating teachers doing a great job communicating, as part of staff meetings (highlight what they are doing)
   2. Safety Assembly –
      1. Request for a school assembly based on safety within the community
      2. Council is looking at partners to provide safety. Parents can opt for these opportunities. Safety updates can be provided by the administration about what is currently being done, as part of the weekly newsletter.
      3. Suggested Action Steps:
         1. Continue to provide updates for parents on how we support safety in the community (including a reminder that stranger danger messaging is a family conversation)
   3. Notify parents if only one bus
      1. Remind will go out to families as soon as administration knows there is only one bus.
   4. More integration of Sign Language
      1. Having the deaf and hard of hearing program at Briarlake is one we should raise up. A strong positive for the school and recruitment tool for realtors
      2. Suggested Action Items:
         1. Could there be signs that all children in the school learn and use regularly, to raise up this focus within the school community.
         2. Assembly at School about Deaf Community Culture
         3. Word of the week for PTA e-blast. Reinforced both at home and at school (poster on the door to the cafeteria) – Jennifer Petrich taking lead on sign development for school
         4. Start with signing the pledge of allegiance within all classrooms
3. Unfinished Business
   1. Stem Certification
      1. Briarlake is continually working to keep consistent messaging as we build partnerships to achieve STEM certification.
      2. Work is ongoing. Everyone working hard.
   2. Junior Beta Club – New Criteria
      1. 3.75 GPA and MAP (75% in reading and math) – rising 5th graders
      2. 18 students have been identified. Ms. Thomas will be reaching out to parents.
      3. Still looking at how to adjust sliding scale to include students with special needs and ESOL students
   3. Academic Competitions and Clubs
      1. Math Competition and Technology Fair this Saturday
      2. Next Saturday is Reading Bowl Competition
      3. Social Studies Fair (Regional), February 4th
      4. Science Olympiad March 18
      5. Action Items: Parent and teacher Volunteers in charge of a competition should connect with our Website lead (Megan Cowin) to share participation and winners as appropriate. We need to raise up this great work! Please make sure to take group website pictures.
      6. Update: We now have such strong involvement that we have more kids who want to participate than we have space to allow all to participate. We have started using the model of having a practice club and then the decision to compete is made by the student’s performance.
   4. Six Flags Reading
      1. Six Flags – Ms. Gallaway is now in charge
      2. Forms have gone out to parents and have gone out again. Due the first week in February.
   5. “Gifted” Criteria Clarification –
      1. Debbie Gerstle wrote to the district asking for clarification on gifted. They will be doing the testing every two years based on state guidelines.
      2. Students must now meet achievement criteria in order to get any additional testing for gifted (used to be 3 of 4 criteria needed to be met).
      3. Parents have issues with Kindergarten testing counting for 2 years. Many of these children have never used a mouse or computer before.
4. New Business
   1. Realtors – Junior League representatives have reached out looking to raise up Briarlake for realtors
      1. PTA will send the achievement list to Administration to make sure it is included in promotional materials
   2. Accelerated Reading and Front Row ED Math –
      1. Accelerated Reading program is returning to Briarlake
      2. We will be putting up a school wide bulletin board to raise up this work.
      3. School is looking to purchase Front Row ED Math as the school computer math program (to replace Reflex Math)
   3. Briarlake Facility Repair –
      1. No Update on new roof
   4. Bethany Hopkins Pregnancy Research Center –
      1. Looking for planning opportunities (having a 5K here) - Given their focus on research and support on abortion, adoption and parenting, the School Community cannot be a host.
   5. Aftercare Survey Results (reference attachment)
      1. Survey went out via the PTA blast, with 53 respondents
      2. Interest Areas included in attachment
      3. Next Steps:
         1. Providing Support to Homework Time:
         2. Follow-up Meeting with Parents on Changes
         3. Provide a list of vendors from DeKalb that meet these top identified areas
         4. Ellyn will set up meeting with aftercare and Ms. Hamilton.
5. Adjourned 2:26

**Motion by to adjourn by Debbie Martin-Gerstle,**

**Seconded by Laurie Law**

**All voted Yay**

**Meeting Adjourned**

1. Develop Agenda for Next Meeting, Thursday, March 16, @ 1pm