Briarlake Elementary School  
School Council Meeting

October 20, 2016  
Briarlake Media Center 1 p.m.

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

Not Present: Anjevon Smith (Vice Chair), Jared Cobb (parent representative), Tony Pan (Academic Challenge Coordinator)

Guest (non-voting members): Jennifer Petrich (parent), Sonya Tinsley-Hook (PTA President), Ms. Thomas and Ms. Galloway (Teachers)

1. Call to Order – Called to order by Debbie Martin-Gerstle at 1:06
2. Inspiration – Shared by Debbie Martin-Gerstle. One teacher made a huge impact on Albert Einstein’s life. Without his encouragement, Einstein would have given up on school and the world would be a very different place. Never underestimate the impact a single person can have, not only on an individual, but perhaps even on the world!
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda

**Motion made by Ms. Law to approve agenda; Ms. Wise seconded.**

**Agenda approved.**

1. Approval of Minutes

**Motion made by Debbie Martin-Gerstle to approve August Minutes; Ms. Law seconded.**

**Minutes approved.**

1. Recognition of Visitors
   1. Jennifer Petrich - Parent
   2. Ms. Thomas and Ms. Galloway – Teachers
2. Principal’s Report
   1. STEM Certification – Update on the continued progress and the utilizations of partners - Ms. Galloway shared that for the STEM process we must have 3 artifacts that have to be submitted by November 1; (1) Executive Summary (including the indicators), (2) a narrative (all the strengths for each indicator and how we will sustain those strengths/along with weakness) and (3) all of this must be posted on the website. We are nearly here! The Executive Summary will be shared with the SFC for review. The goals in the narrative will include suggested utilization of our partners.
   2. Attendance and Safety updates
      1. Briarlake continues to do safety drills and has moved to “what if?” conversations. The next step is to get a lock on the cafeteria doors. The last drill went well, but we left Ms. McMillan (Discovery class) in her trailer as they cannot hear the alarm.
      2. We also need to look at notes for how to communicate with parents when they are in the building or for when visitors are hosting meetings. Suggested that Ms. Lewis present safety concerns at the parent forum.
      3. During PTA meetings we need to tighten up monitoring children during events (e.g. pulling of fire alarm during meeting).
      4. Enrollment and funds - Briarlake is supporting Early Intervention Programs within the classrooms to better support students and use those federal funds to support classroom models. Review of MAP scores and suggested tiered intervention (see below in MAP Testing Results)
   3. MAP Testing Results – Hope is to get home MAP test results next week (DeKalb County is holding them). Overall results where shared by grade level and attached.
   4. School Improvement Plan –
      1. About half of our students were considered proficient or above (via Georgia Milestones), so our focus is to increase rigor
      2. Second was to focus on lexile measures and to focus on individual growth on lexile scores. Celebrating this as a school community (growth)
      3. Bringing cohesiveness with leadership – Having our School Improvement Plan as a living, breathing document that drives our work and brings together staff, parents, and community.
   5. School Wide Budget Review (current funds on attachment) – Briarlake is waiting for the release of afterschool funds. In addition to the innovative lab funds, available funds would go to cover easels in the classroom, and also level books for reading.
   6. AdvancEd Accreditation Self-Assessment – This is a self-assessment for the school (not STEM), these are 5 standards which we rated ourselves on. This information is used for our school improvement plan. Feedback included the need to look at the mission statement of Briarlake - needs to be raised and possibly revisited. Current Mission Statement States: - *It is the mission of Briarlake to provide a highly effective academic environment that promotes initiative, leadership, creativity, compassion and acceptance of diversity, so that our students can compete in an ever-changing society as life-long learners.*
3. Unfinished Business
   1. Junior Beta Club –
      1. New criteria is required as we have moved to MAP testing vs. ITBS. Previous was a 85% composite score on ITBS and a 3.75 on 4th grade report. This requires still using an accommodation. Suggested idea to keep the same GPA cutoff and then look at the results and make the criteria for the top tier (top 20 to 25).
      2. Update from Ms. Thomas: Currently we have 15 members – 7 will be going to the state conference. There are members of the robotic competition and song fest. Six members will be participating in individual competitions (includes digital photography, art, painting, etc). Jr Beta Club meets 2 times per month (once during school lunch and once after school). We have a local service project (hats off for cancer) and an international service project (little dresses for Africa). This year the club has added officer positions. Election results will be shared later this afternoon. The club has now purchased the national Jr Beta curriculum.
   2. Six Flags Reading - Ms. Wise has not yet received the information, but will make it a priority to share with staff at the next faculty meeting. We are also all doing “Book It” again this year.
   3. School Council – Direction, Role, Standards for District

Ms. Champion contacted Briarlake’s chair about an opportunity to visit with the superintendent. Debbie and Ellyn will join School Council Reps from across the county to visit with Dr. Greene. This will be reported out at our next meeting.

* 1. Dekalb Redistricting Decision – DeKalb County is looking at redistricting options. Lakeside High School is receiving a 750 seat building expansion, but this still leaves about 250 out of the cluster. The Lakeside cluster is gathering monthly to discuss possible implications for schools in the district. There is a meeting tonight at 6:30 at Lakeside High School. Possible solutions to share with the county to allow us to stay together is to increase the new building to 1000. Another possible solution is for a 9th grade academy.
  2. Briarlake’s Facility Needs and SPLOST Projects -
     1. There is a link in the Blast if you cannot make an Elementary Facilities meeting, There is an online survey due by October 24th.
     2. Briarlake Priorities - We are collectively as a cluster trying to get Henderson Mill a new building. Priorities in our school on the facilities report include a new roof, and HVAC in the gym. We are getting our roof from SPLOST IV.
  3. Aftercare Committee Follow Up- Survey will go out from PTA leadership to gather information about how we are currently functioning and identifying the needs. First steps could be small improvements, eg. transparency and more structure, as suggested by parents. It has been suggested that the SFC look at how to use this opportunity to provide enrichment directly related to improving school performance.

1. Adjourned at 2:32 by Debbie Martin-Gerstle

**ADDENDUM:**

Due to a change in work schedule, Jared Cobb (Parent Rep), has resigned his position on the School Council. His term is up in May 2017.

A call for Nominations was held. 3 Parents were Nominated to fill the vacant Parent Rep seat. However, in the end only one parent decided to run in the election.

Congratulations to Jennifer Petrich, new parent rep on the School council. Her term will end May 2017.