Briarlake Elementary School  
School Council Meeting

March 16, 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 Coordinators, Tony Pan

Meeting was also attended by non-voting members: Amanda Snow (Briarlake Baptist Church), Sonya Tinsley-Hook (PTA Co-President), Million Gemerew (parent), and Semre Woldegherghis (parent)

Not Present: Jin Choy

1. Call to order at 1:05 by Debbie Martin-Gerstle
2. Inspiration by Jennifer Petrich
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
   1. Motion to approve the agenda by Ms. Law
   2. Second by Ms. Wise
   3. All in favor, none opposed
   4. Motion approved
5. Approval of Jan Minutes
   1. Motion to approve Minutes by Debbie Martin-Gerstle
   2. Seconded by Ms. Law
   3. All in favor, none opposed
   4. Motion approved
6. Recognition of Visitors
7. Principal’s Report
   1. Attendance and Safety Update –
      1. Current Enrollment (about 400)
      2. 155 students have had between 5 and 8 absences (38%)
      3. Safety strategy – We are utilizing cones to support people coming in the carpool lane for drop-off in the mornings.
         1. Consider bringing police officer in for tickets to keep people from making illegal left turns.
         2. Consider updating signage for school entrance and carpool lanes
         3. Repaint arrows on the driveway to show right and left turn on exit
   2. Projected Enrollment for next year
      1. Average increase of about 10 students each year.
      2. Originally we lost a teacher in 4th grade, and gained a position in 3rd grade.
      3. With the new point allotment (2 additional points), we can increase staff by two. Now we can keep three 4th grades and still have another open staff position. Having teachers gifted certified and creating advanced content and EIP scheduling has created these additional points.
      4. Concerns to discuss: How will we have an additional 3rd grade classrooms in our current space.
8. Unfinished Business
   1. STEM certification –
      1. We are able to support more in depth studies as part of our integrated STEM curriculum. Teachers also report becoming more comfortable with trying new techniques and with the technology being introduced into the classroom. Innovation lab access is happening for all grades. Our STEM certification review is March 29th and 30th. The staff has been preparing. Staff has reached out to students, and parents have a mock interview set to prepare them for the 29th.
   2. More integration of Sign Language into school
      1. Signage is up from the teachers, but remains on the to do list for a school-wide effort. Will be revisited after STEM certification. Jennifer will follow up.
   3. Academic Competition s and Clubs (Jin/Tony)
      1. Science Olympiad is this Saturday, March 18
      2. Third Academic Challenge – had about 50 participants
      3. 4th and Final Academic Challenge will be coming out soon
   4. AfterCare updates – Tutorial has started
      1. Concern was brought to teachers on safety nets in place and the opportunity to support students during aftercare
      2. More teachers than expected are available for this afterschool tutorial program (1 to 3).
      3. Kids are selected to participate via MAP data; Kids in the lower quartile.
      4. Need to move forward with the aftercare survey results. Planning needs to happen for the next school year. Ellyn will try to connect with Ms. Lewis and Ms. Hamilton to schedule a follow-up for aftercare enrichment options.
         1. Consider using revenue from aftercare for homework help, will put on agenda for the aftercare meeting.
   5. New Roof Projected date? - Construction will start in summer 2017. Parent leader Debbie Gerstle helped ensure construction started with the District.
   6. Accelerated Reading – We are Celebrating successes in the school. Each child is reading a non-fiction article, and takes a comprehensive test, and a vocabulary test. This is done during the school day. There is a parent component that we will explore and see if this could be available to families to use at home. Anjevon to follow up.
   7. School Wide computer math program (FrontrowED) - This will start this year and replaced Reflex Math. We purchased the math, but they have other areas that we can explore moving forward.
9. New Business
   1. Lakeside Cluster updates
      1. The next meeting will be here at Briarlake, date to be determined.
      2. Goals are to meet with Cluster and be in relationships with BOE and Regional Superintendent to avoid just being reactionary. We want to build a strategic plan to work collaboratively to support the cluster, esp during redistricting.
   2. Gifted testing results
      1. Gifted Data 2015-16
         1. Active Gifted before Step 2 testing: 67
         2. Automatic (no need for Step 2): 19
         3. Needing Step 2: 39 students (of the 39, 12 qualified)
         4. Total Active Gifted 3/3/16; 98 students
      2. Gifted Data 2016-17
         1. Active Gifted before Step 2: 73
         2. Automatic (no need for Step 2): 12
         3. Needing Step 2: 57 students (of the 57, TBD qualified)
         4. Total Active Gifted 3/13/2017; 85 students + ???
      3. Concerns throughout the region on this new testing:
         1. Initial screener is just an achievement screener
         2. Can you request the CoGAT if you did not quality by MAP testing?
         3. Kindergarten students- not all are prepared for a computer test.
         4. The District is revisiting the testing and will provide an update on any changes in the near future
      4. DUKE Tip (Talent Identification) - serves kids 4th grade and older using 3rd or 4th grade test scores. Must be in 95th Percentile or higher. Need teacher lead to help screen students. Ms McMillan? Anjevon to follow up.
   3. GA Milestone dates/info
      1. State assessments for 3rd , 4th and 5th grade.
      2. 5th grade takes all subjects, 4th grade reading, writing and math, 3rd grade reading and math
      3. Will be April 19, 20, 21(makeup), 24, 25 26 (makeup), 27, 28, May 1 until May 4
      4. Last year the retention policy was not enforced, this year it will be enforced
      5. Possible new “cut score” for math this year – for advancement of 5th graders.
      6. Accommodations apply to this test (504 and IEP)
      7. Drives our CCRPI score (current score is 78.5) – Link to CCRPI: <http://ccrpi.gadoe.org/2016/>
   4. MAP testing and growth results
      1. Scores have already gone home for Winter MAP
      2. Next test will be in May
      3. Growth on the MAP guides us to identify early needs for Milestone prep
      4. Overall school is improving in reading and math over the course of this year which is a direct reflection of our teachers’ work.
      5. The School is using a quad report to look at both achievement and growth
      6. Request for more conversations about growth with the parents during parent/teacher conferences
   5. Science Workshops in May
      1. Big Thinkers will be here – Every classroom will have a one hour hands-on workshop. Debbie to follow up.
   6. Preparing 5th grade students for Middle School
      1. What can we do to support more independence with students preparing for Middle School. Need to stop coddling. Sonya and Jennifer to follow up.
      2. Make sure that we are doing partnership with middle school to understand the needs of our students; students must take on more responsibility.
      3. Sonya and Ms. Lewis will explore options to encourage our students to be middle school ready; talk to teachers, Panel from MS, & executive function talk.
   7. Donation bin for Girl Scouts –
      1. Request from Briarlake parents who support Girl Scouts to collect supplies for their Girl Scout project (dog supplies for local shelters).
      2. We would need to develop criteria to support these types of projects. Until that is created, we can promote in the PTA Blast. Sonya Hook and Tonya Pan will develop criteria to determine which community groups we can support.
   8. Open position for School Council- 3 people rolling off
      1. Debbie Gerstle, Ms. Wise, and Jennifer Petrich (who replaced Jared Cobb) are reaching term limit at end of school year. Debbie to send out Nomination form.
      2. Open positions: 2 parents and 1 teacher; Would be good to encourage an upper grade teacher to replace Ms Wise
10. Develop Agenda for next Meeting: Thursday, May 4th at 1pm
    1. Additional Space Needs for new classrooms
    2. Safety – Officer for carpool, bigger signs, painted arrows - Ms Lewis
    3. Outreach for early learners - Ellyn
    4. Aftercare meeting, enrichment options and homework help- Ellyn
    5. Follow up with Teacher Gifted certification and Advanced Content for next year
    6. SC elections – 2 new parent reps. - Debbie
    7. Sign language integration - Jennifer
    8. Milestone cut scores for Reading and Math for 5th grade advancement- Ms Stansfield
    9. Criteria for community donation/solicitation – (Girl and Boy Scouts etc) -Sonya/Tony
    10. Accessing Accelerated Reading at home – Anjevon
    11. 5th grade prep for MS (Panel from Henderson MS) & executive functioning – Sonya/Jen
    12. Duke Tips teacher lead (Ms McMillan) - Anjevon
11. Adjournment
    1. Motion to adjourn by Debbie Gerstle at 2:40
    2. Second by Jennifer Petrich
    3. All in favor, none opposed
    4. Motion approved