**Hartsfield Elementary School**

**School Advisory Council Meeting**

**January 21, 2015 / 5:30-6:30**

**Minutes**

Attendance: Taylor Conley, Wendy Davis, Grace Frances, Gregory Holloway, Michael Landrum, Marie-Claire Leman, Nancy Oakley, Cindy Roy, Jason Strom, Rich Templin, Ava Williams

Chair: Bridgett Birmingham

Secretary: Will Hanley

1. Call to Order. 5:41 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2015. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Williams suggested two changes to today’s agenda:

* Item 6 should be changed from SAC budget update to SAC budget vote. We have not given adequate notice for such a vote, however, so we will delay this for next meeting.
* Item 7 (Discussion of trauma-sensitive school plan (per decision of September SAC meeting)) may have already been covered in the November meeting. This was not reflected in the minutes, but the principal’s report included some discussion of trauma-sensitive. Decided that we will have an update on this topic today, in any event.

1. PTO Update. (Oakley for Bryant)

Blue Pop raised $68.95 in December. Holiday Winter Cart raised $221.44. Museum of Fine Arts raised $85.00. The PTO sponsored a scholarship in the amount of $16.00 for Pre-K.

The SAC had some discussion of the Hawks Dads initiative, which was well received by faculty. This will happen every other week, usually on a Tuesday.

1. EDEP Updates. (Holloway)

* We will be having EDEP and 21st century summer camps, info distributed end of February.
* City-wide, 21st century aiming to be of service to the community at large, not just students. For example, working to provide financial literacy event in February for parents, with tax and banking information.

DAC Update. (Davis)

* The body is concerned with the security risk of Snapchat and other social media programs, and is seeking to warn parents.
* There are currently efforts ongoing to rationalize the school calendar for coming years.

1. Principal’s Update.

Ms. Williams delivered a report on behalf of Ms. Van Camp.

* The State Board of Education met in January and approved the school grades program. Hartsfield’s letter grade is an outstanding issue, with different (and shifting) measures of assessment. The State Board eliminated the safety net that prevented any school dropping two grades; Ms. Williams noted that Hartsfield never benefited from this provision. We may receive these grades mid-February.
* Hartsfield’s science fair went well, and students had good exchange with volunteer judges from the community.
* Two fifth grade students were selected to attend the district Martin Luther King breakfast last Friday.
* We are proud of the op-ed in the Tallahassee Democrat written by Ms. Frances and Ms. Leman. It’s Hartsfield parents telling the Hartsfield story. The SAC discussed this question for some time. Ms. Leman noted that they have received positive feedback from the community, which may support recruitment efforts. Perhaps these positive approaches are especially effective. Teachers stated that they felt supported. The op-ed helped by putting the issue of school grades out there and naming the elephant in the room (the ill-founded nature of school grades and the false stigma against public schools). Indeed, other public schools appreciated the support. The coming explosion of charter school numbers is a particular concern.
* (On an altogether unrelated note) the Hartsfield FSA school calendar will be released soon, and volunteer proctors will be solicited.

1. SAC Budget Update. (Williams for Van Camp)

* Teacher groups have been discussing items they wish to purchase, such as a new marquee. New playground equipment has also been part of this conversation, for reasons of safety and beautification. The prices we’ve received for marquees have been high, so the preference is to look at playground equipment.
* Question: what is the source of these funds? Answer: School Improvement Plan funds from the district. These are awarded on a per-student basis—we have $3,919.74 in that budget, which we can use to support objectives of the SIP. Previously this amount was $10 per student; more recently it has been about $5 per student.
* Question: when was this money allocated? Answer: Ms. Williams can’t speak authoritatively on this, but she supposes that it may have been allocated at the beginning of the school year. But she is not at all certain about this.
* Question: what was it spent on last year? Answer: Ms. Williams does not have the answer to that question, but under new rules, SAC must approve the spending of this budget starting this year.
* Question: will this fund cover the cost of the playground? Answer: Ms Van Camp can allocate additional funds to cover the full cost.
* Comment: There was a general sense from the body that earlier and clearer communication with the SAC on this budget would help us to make decisions about this spending.
* Ms. Leman: there are many organizations that might help to fund this project; recess is a hot issue. She will look into funding, which might allow us to use the SIP funds for other purposes.

1. Discussion of trauma-sensitive school plan (per decision of September SAC meeting).

- Ms. Akiba Cummings (spelling?) has been hired, and will start next Monday. We will invite her to address our next meeting, at which point we can get deeper into this issue.

1. Legislative update & forecast

* Ms. Leman: adherence to the class size constitutional amendment has been eroded over time. Charters don’t have to abide by it, and schools are allowed to calculate class size on a school-wide average. The legislature uses these loopholes to avoid allocating adequate funds to meet the class size requirements. But now, due to multiple lawsuits, the legislature needs to find new means. They are experimenting with “schools of choice” idea—42 of 43 Leon county schools are so designated, which allows them to calculate class size on a school-wide average, rather than class-by-class. The constitutional amendment was not intended to apply to only 1 of 43 Leon schools. Hartsfield is indeed a “school of innovation,” but increased class size mitigates against our trauma-sensitive initiative. It’s rotten that we have 20-22 students per class, but it’s even worse elsewhere in the state: there are a total of 31,000 students state-wide who exceed the class size amendment. She suggests that we encourage our school board to take a position on this issue.

**Motion** (Hanley/Frances): The SAC draft a letter to the superintendent expressing our wish to “opt in” to the class size amendment, and explaining reasons for the same.

**Passed without objection**. Ms. Leman will lead the drafting of the letter, following the general procedure used for previous letters.

1. Announcements and/or Other Information for the Good of the Order

**Motion** (Hanley/Leman): That we make Trauma-informed initiative update a regular item on the SAC agenda. Discussion: anyone can give this update, doesn’t have to be the new staff member.

**Passed without objection**.

1. Adjournment 6:41.

Next meeting: February 18, 2016.