**Hartsfield Elementary School**

**School Advisory Council Meeting**

**March 17, 2016**

**Minutes**

Present: Marie-Claire Leman, Rich Templin, Gregory Holloway, Grace Frances, Steve Mills, Ava Williams

Chair: Bridgett Birmingham

Secretary: Will Hanley

Regrets: Jason Strom, Faydre Brown

1. **Call to order**: 5:39
2. **Approval of minutes** of February 18, 2016. Approved.
3. **Updates**:
4. **PTO**. Met and went over budget. Principal can no longer spend any discretionary funds on teachers, on things like retirement plaques, coffee, and the like. So PTO is looking to fund this; for now they are using money previously used to gift books to children (money which has gone unspent recently because Ms. Peltier has received grants). Parents will be supplying treats for teachers on certain Fridays. Mr. Templin offered to try to find coffee donations, and asked for a list of other items that we might try to get donated.
5. **EDEP**. Mr. Holloway distributed a written report.
   1. They’re preparing for summer, and for the shortened school days at the end of the year.
   2. This summer’s theme is “Tune in to Hartsfield,” with a different “channel” as a theme each week. Mr. Holloway explained how he manages to keep the cost of the program ($100 per week) so affordable.
   3. Last family literacy night was poorly attended due to concern about storm. Next family literacy night is March 28, on health and wellness.
   4. Ms. Leman asked if any Title I money went to the summer program. Ms. Williams said not to her knowledge.
   5. Ms. Leman offered to facilitate use of the school’s gardens during the summer.
6. **DAC.** No report, but minutes were distributed.
7. **Trauma-sensitive initiative.** Ms. Williams reported that next week, on the planning day, there’s a half day part II training, for which teachers and paraprofessionals will be paid. Nicky Zing will speak on teacher fatigue and classroom interventions.
   1. Ms. Frances asked if Hartsfield staff will also be given this training. Ms. Williams said that is in the plans, and that this staff is already included in book study and the like. Ms. Frances mentioned that lunch seems to be a trigger; Ms. Williams said that lunch room staff and all school participation are part of their future plans. Mr. Holloway is working with Ms. Van Camp to figure out how to make this training available to his staff, most of whom are college students.
   2. Mr. Mills asked if the Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) program is in operation at Hartsfield. Ms. Williams said that Hartsfield is the main place where it happens.
8. **Principal.** Ms. Williams reported on behalf of Ms. Van Camp.
   1. The “Advanced Ed” climate surveys will be distributed soon. We discussed how the survey link is shared. Ms. Birmingham noted that it is hard to come in to the school to look at this survey, and she supposes that few could do this. Ms. Williams noted that computers were set up during evening events for parents to take the climate survey.
   2. Ms. Leman noted that the climate survey doesn’t necessarily reach those who aren’t content with the school. In the past we used a survey we designed ourselves, which was more open-ended and tailored to our needs, with useful results. Perhaps, as we work on the trauma-sensitive initiative, we could think about ways to consult better, including discussion rather than paper. Ms. Birmingham suggested that distributing and receiving the surveys in person improves response rates.
   3. Ms. Williams distributed a schedule of upcoming FSA assessments. We discussed the steady expansion of computer based testing, which is moving into a new grade and new subject each year. Various SAC members discussed their impression that the FSA monopolizes facilities, and some students perform more poorly on computer-based versions of tests.
   4. Hartsfield has been designated a “calibration site.” This means that Hartsfield will be testing in the early part of the window, and its tests will be scored earlier than other tests.
9. **LCS Title I policies and procedures.** 
   1. Ms. Leman said that it would be nice to know what happened with the roll forward monies, and what the plans are for next year. Ms. Williams said that we voted to apply the roll forward SAC money to the playground. Ms. Leman specified that she was talking about something else: the district’s roll over amount, around $1 million. The district has suggested that they will divvy this up among all elementary schools. What did Hartsfield decide to do with its $40,000? Ms. Williams said they surveyed teachers and spent most on teacher training. There was a very quick turnaround on plans and spending.
   2. Mr. Mills wondered if she is using this funding to pay paraprofessionals to attend the training on Monday. Ms. Williams is not sure.
   3. Ms. Leman wondered if these funds could be applied for wraparound during the summer program. Ms. Williams will ask Ms. Van Camp to make this plan available to the SAC.
   4. Ms. Leman noted that the funds were to be spent on SIP related initiatives, so the SAC may have something to say.
   5. Ms. Frances mentioned that the Title I advisory committee suggests that funds distributed to schools might double next year. But we haven’t heard anything from the district as yet.
   6. Ms. Leman noted that one thing people are advocating for in turning around Title I spending in the district is getting more input from schools (teachers, parents, principals) on where this money should be spent. There is a lack of process. Title I advisory board is not meeting. SACs are more institutionally solid, and could be a good place for these funding decision discussions to take place. Our SAC is fairly functional, so could play an important role in this process.
   7. Ms. Frances noted that it is nice to know that SIP deliberations have some standing, and are being invoked in this spending process.

**Decision: Title I program funds discussion** will be added to next meeting’s agenda. Ms. Van Camp will be informed, so that she can provide us with additional information.

1. **SAC Class size amendment letter**

Ms. Leman reported that 42 of 43 schools in Leon County are classified as schools of choice, which is a loophole that allows class size to be calculated on school averages rather than actual class sizes.

Mr. Templin noted that this amendment has in fact been passed three times. The Districts benefit above all.

The letter that we’re drafting will ask to opt out of this designation. The distinction we’re trying to build depends on small class sizes.

Mr. Mills asked if we can opt out. The district makes this designation. We are making this request to underline our objection. Mr. Mills commented that the letter could be even stronger in making the point that the class size amendment should not be gamed.

We discussed whether we prioritize avoiding the designation or making a political point. We decided that the district is unlikely to agree. We can make a simple request initially, and write a more strongly worded letter if it is not accepted.

**Decision**: we work more on the draft letter, and put this letter up for vote at the next meeting.

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

None

1. **Adjournment: 6:42 p.m.**