**Hartsfield Elementary School**

**School Advisory Council Meeting**

**May 19, 2016 / 5:30-6:30**

**Minutes**

Present: Wendy Davis, Gregory Holloway, Judi McDowell, Michael Landrum, Cindy Roy, Ava Williams, Mary Jo Peltier, Marie-Claire Leman, Jason Strom, Feydre Brown

Chair: Bridgett Birmingham

Secretary: Will Hanley

1. Call to order: 5:34 pm
2. Approval of minutes of April 21, 2016. One correction: Wendy Davis’ name was misrecorded as “Wendy Morgan.” This will be fixed.

Approved as amended.

1. Updates:
2. PTO: The Mother’s Day cart raised $500. Feydre Brown was elected president of the PTO for 2016-17.
3. EDEP: Gearing up for summer. Mr. Holloway gave details of programming and planning.
4. DAC: Detailed minutes were circulated; Ms. Birmingham and Ms. Davis reported. Ms. Leman asked if the draft of the district strategic plan was distributed at the DAC meeting. Ms. Birmingham said that it was not. Ms. Leman voiced concern that this plan (which is due at the end of June) has not been distributed, as there are no opportunities for feedback; she is also concerned that the upcoming school board meeting has been cancelled. Ms. Birmingham noted that Dr. Hightower had presented on this topic at the DAC meeting.

Ms. Birmingham discussed a new publicity system which came up at the DAC. The district is moving to an all-electronic, centralized communication system called “Peach Jar”, instead of circulating paper fliers. Various members of the SAC raised concerns about this system, which will not reach those who do not have smart phones and similar devices—especially at Title I schools. Ms. Birmingham noted that there will be the possibility to distribute fliers more widely, and to choose distribution—which will be a positive. Ms. Peltier stated that the phones of many parents at Hartsfield go in and out of service due to financial dire straits. There were also concerns raised about micromanaging, about overwhelming volume of messages, and about “Big Brother” monitoring of communications. Ms. Williams will ask Ms. Van Camp to find more information for the SAC concerning the “Peach Jar” system and the strategic plan.

1. Trauma-sensitive initiative. Ms. Williams reported that we’re trying to carry through to the end of the year using the strategies they’ve learned. Behaviors spike a bit at the end of the year; the challenge is keeping them in school, in the classrooms, in the learning environment. We’re ready to roll out some of the techniques that Ms. Commings sampled in her small group, and this will help to standardize language and expectations from classroom to classroom. Ms. Birmingham asked if they are planning assessments of the trauma-sensitive initiative. Ms. Peltier reported that they’ve reached out to Dr. James Clark at FSU to see if he might partner with us in 2016-17 to do some sort of assessment, working with grad students. Also, we have a parent training workshop booked for the Orange Avenue apartments on Tuesday, June 7 at 6 pm. Teachers will be in training during this week as well. We discussed publicity—knocking on doors, fliers in backpacks. Ms. Davis asked if food and babysitting will be provided; Ms. Peltier will look into this.
2. Principal’s report. Ms. Williams reported that we have 3 surveys ongoing: the Advanced Ed survey (for parents, students, and staff), the Title I survey, and the School, Family, and Community Partnership survey. Ms. Williams described efforts to increase participation, and how these will be analyzed and disseminated.

A trauma-sensitive coordinator position has been established, which is key to school improvement. It will be a dream come true to have someone who can focus on this work entirely, rather than wearing many hats that prevent total focus. SAC members asked who has been appointed to the position, and were happy to learn that Ms. Peltier has been appointed. Ms. Roy expressed her view that the staff understands the issues much better, and that this position will help them further to adopt practices appropriate to the children’s needs.

Ms. Peltier said that this is not a trend of the moment, but a movement in the broader community, and she’s very happy that we can focus on this work on campus. She praised the work of Ms. Williams, on the front line of this effort at Hartsfield, supporting this essential work by connecting with the individual children. Mr. Landrum brought a box of tissues to Ms. Williams and Ms. Roy, who wiped their eyes.

1. 2016-2017 School-Parent Compact Discussion (Ms. McDowell). This is a title I requirement, which has not changed much over the years. We looked over this document. It is possible to make changes. Mr. Landrum and Ms. Roy mentioned that they discuss this document with their students, translating it into their terms. We discussed making some changes—it is quite long, could be simplified, and could emphasize the Positive Behavior Support traits. It needs to be part of the Parent Involvement Plan, which is due in June; Ms. Peltier will look it over before then, and will send out a revision to the SAC by email for approval (or in a possible June meeting).
2. 2016-17 School Improvement Plan (subcommittee reporting). Ms. Leman stated that the subcommittee is meeting next Wednesday at 3 to discuss the SIP, and will report back to the SAC.
3. School, Family, and Community Partnerships Survey (per April 21 minutes). Ms. McDowell and Ms. Williams asked us to complete this, and to focus in particular on communication and collaboration, which are areas in which we wish to make progress. This is a Title I survey. We discussed the implementation and execution of this survey.
4. Announcements and/or Other Information for the Good of the Order

Ms. Leman noted that the 3rd grade FSA results came out today. She asked what has been done at Hartsfield to help promotion of students who were at level 1 on this test—there were perhaps 19 such students. Ms. Williams was in promotion/retention meetings today, at which students were encouraged to bring all of their information on each student, to take a comprehensive view. Ms. Williams turned in all of her assessment information today. The SAT-10 assessment was administered to 30 students who were predicted to score a level 1, in order that they might get a good cause exemption from summer reading academies. We’ve also continued intervention with these students, even after the FSA was administered. Various individuals asked about whether it is or is not in students’ interest to attend the summer reading academy. For example, if students can get a good cause exemption but attend the summer academy and fail the final test, will they be retained? It seems that this will not happen, because the student will already have passed the SAT 10 during the school year. In any case, it is in the best interest of many of these students to attend the summer reading academy, as otherwise they are unlikely to spend much time reading during the summer. Ms. Leman stated her concern that students must be pulled out to take additional tests, and encouraged the school to continue to use the portfolio system to promote students who warrant promotion but who perform at level 1 on the FSA. Ms. Williams described the extensive requirements for the portfolio, which are onerous, and suggested that the SAT tests are sometimes a less onerous.

We discussed the possibility of meeting next month in order to discuss the School Improvement Plan. It was decided that the SIP subcommittee will meet over the summer, and that the whole SAC will not meet. So the next SAC meeting will be Thursday, August 18. But Ms. Peltier will have a draft of the revised Parent-Teacher-Student Agreement available for the SAC subcommittee meeting next Wednesday (May 25). Also, we will notice the SIP subcommittee meeting to the full membership of the SAC.

1. Adjournment

Motion Roy/Strom—passed. Adjourned at 6:45.