

Sedalia Park Charter School Governing Board Minutes

Minutes of the May 3, 2011 Meeting

Present at the meeting:

Teri Brennan, Christina Duncan, Duane Wilson, Bridgette Turner, Lorna Parker, Gretchen Hornsby, Kim Danielson, Ashley McCann, Shelby Robert, Kelly Fedderson, Sara Brown, Jamie Rogers, Jim Pruss, Bill Mengel, Patty Thomas, Allison Swain

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Principal's Update: Some changes to staff for next year include a few teachers retiring, some teachers leaving, and some teachers making grade level changes. A new principal has been hired for Sedalia Park. Her name is Jennifer Lawson. She is currently the principal of Westside Elementary in the Marietta City School District. Dr. Thomas has already spoken with her and feels she will be a great fit with Sedalia Park.

General Discussion:

Guidance Counselors presented details of the guidance program that they have implemented this year. One activity involved using a story to give students an example of goal setting. A goal-setting activity after the story. They worked with small groups of third graders on a weekly basis. For ten weeks they worked with those students on writing goals. The counselors worked one on one with some of the students and made sure they could write their own goal. They set both long and short term goals. By the end of the group sessions all students were able to write goals and 50% of them met at least one of their goals. They feel the program has been successful and they will continue it next school year.

Parent Concern: Cobb County's transportation policy states that transportation is not provided to transfer students. Could we change the policy in regards to transportation for the students coming to our charter school? There are situations in which students are brought to school by parents but need to ride the bus home to a relative in the Sedalia Park attendance zone. Many of our buses are so full that there are two loads for the same bus in order to transport all of the students. We would have to amend the charter to make such a change because our charter currently states the following:

The CCSD BOE will provide transportation to students attending Sedalia Park who live in the established attendance zone. Parents of enrolled students who live outside the school's attendance zone must provide transportation to and from the school. Parents who live within the Sedalia Park attendance zone and choose to withdraw from the school to enroll in another CCSD school must provide transportation to and from the newly assigned school.

Transfers: Transfer requests have been submitted for the 2011-2012 school year.

Kindergarten - A vote to approve six charter slots for students in Kindergarten was unanimously agreed upon by the Governing Board.

First & Second - A motion was made to accept the four first grade transfer students and the two second grade transfer students. That motion was passed.

Names were randomly drawn for the available Kindergarten slots. When the available spots were filled, the remaining names were drawn and put on a waiting list in the order in which they were drawn.

Governing Board Openings: A motion was made to accept the three applicants that have applied for the available parent Governing Board positions. Those names will be shared at the next PTA meeting. Carol Kolakowski will be the teacher representative for the technology team for the next two school years.

Charter Update: Tomorrow Dr. Thomas will attend the school board meeting where they will vote on our charter. Goal III in the charter; the goal for parent involvement has been changed to state that we will increase parent participation and stakeholder satisfaction with the school's performance. We will track parent participation data for this goal.

School Key Teams:

Strategic Key Team – Data will be working on an end of year report for the school improvement plan. It will be written when this Key Team meets at Dr. Thomas' house.

Curriculum and Instruction – School-wide use of a graphic organizer for writing was considered by the staff. We will talk more about what that organizer. Writing scores for 5th grade students were discussed. 95% of our fifth graders met or exceed state standards. There was some discussion about getting information from Key Teams to grade level teams and what worked well or what could be improved.

Climate – Para-pro appreciation day is tomorrow. The budget was discussed. The end of the year luncheon will take place on May 27th.

Technology Key Team – Many of the technology programs were renewed for next year. Carol Kolakowski will be the Governing Board Representative for the Technology Key Team.

New Business: None

Closing Remarks: none

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011