

## **Hilltop Elementary School Council**

**December 7, 2021**

The Hilltop Elementary School Council met in regular session on December 7, 2021, at 7:35 a.m. in the media center at the school.

### **School Council Members Present:**

Dr. Ovedia Glover, Principal

Dr. Ruth Bennett, Assistant Principal of Instruction

Amber Haslet, Teacher

Sandy Sawyer, Teacher

Shannon Grieshop, Teacher

Christie Baggett, Parent

Mandy Cobb, Parent

Leah Aiken, Parent

### **Welcome**

Dr. Glover welcomed everyone to our second school council meeting of the year and thanked everyone for coming.

### **Call to Order**

Shannon Grieshop made motion to call meeting to order at 7:35. Christie Baggett seconded the motion.

### **Review Minutes**

The minutes from the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting were reviewed.

Mandy Cobb made a motion to adopt the minutes. Christie Baggett seconded the motion.

### **Celebrations**

We have so much to be thankful for. Dr. Glover doesn't have to have a season to be grateful. It is just embedded in you to be thankful.

Two students were represented in November at the Board Meeting – Ava Green and Reese Wilkerson.

Rylan Gary and Rob Brett are our Spelling Bee winners.

Mrs. Clark (5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) won the IHeart Media Award. She received a \$500 gift card to spend on her classroom, hockey tickets to the Macon Mayhem, a certificate and dinner.

Mrs. Clark's student, McKenzie Nelson won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Social Studies academic award from the Georgia Council on Economic Education.

These are the things we see to be grateful about. But there are also things we don't see. We have no COVID in the building. We are grateful for our teachers. We are grateful that we have a choice to be vaccinated or not. We are over the number of students that we had prior to the rezoning. Currently we have 572 students. We are not on the main strip, but we have a lot of houses being built and the best staff.

### **Parent Involvement**

We are ready to move forward to opening the building more to parents. However, this takes time and steps to get the green light. We are taking baby steps due to safety. We are allowing parents by invitation only.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> we had our first parent lunch for Pre-K and Kindergarten. It was a success. This Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> we are having Christmas lunch for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and support services. Students not in grades 1 and 3 will eat in their classrooms that day. Other grade levels also picked a month for their parent luncheon. Some chose picnics outside.

No parents were involved in the book fair or Penguin shop because they are not allowed as of yet. We are hoping to bring Field Day back this year with a bang.

Thursday night, Pre-K will have PACT time from 6 pm to 7:30 pm by invitation only.

We are building for excellence with baby steps. We are moving towards the right direction.

### **Reflex Math**

Mrs. Sawyer explained that Reflex Math is an awesome fluency program for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The program does an initial assessment to see where you are and what you need to know. Mrs. Sawyer received a grant last year and used the program. It can be utilized at school or home. It has fun interactive games. The students love it.

Dr. Bennett shared the website to reflex math tour. It is <https://www.reflexmath.com/tour>. Teachers had professional learning on November 17<sup>th</sup> to receive an overview of Reflex Math. Grades 2 – 5 spend 15-20 minutes twice a week on this program. There is a 2 minute fluency check, 3 minutes of coaching and 5 minutes of fluency development games. A 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher had a student master all fluency facts. Dr. Bennett has a call into Reflex Math to see what student's next step should be.

Students can log in through the SSO portal. They then click Clever. Then select Explore Learning – Rostering.

Teachers will receive more professional learning provided by Reflex next year to learn the reports to make sure that students are most successful. Students can click on the triangle in the program to check what they have mastered, what they almost know, and what they need to work on. This empowers the students.

### **Map Assessment Data**

Today we are going to focus on Kindergarten through first grade. Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students take the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress Growth Assessment). This is taken in the fall, now, and end of year. This shows what they know. It is an adaptive test meaning that it is looking for a

50% correct score. Some students may have 20 questions and some may have 50 questions in order to get to a 50% correct score. Headphones are required because questions are read aloud. Kindergarten doesn't take the assessment in fall because it is overwhelming at the beginning of their first year in school.

The MAP test breaks skills into different content areas to show teachers where students are and where they need help. The learning continuum helps teachers to see who in class needs to be in same group to target where they may have gap or need enhancement.

The reading K-2 test goes over the following skills. Foundational skills includes phonics and word recognition, phonological awareness, and print concepts. The literacy and informational text includes meaning, context, craft, and structure; informational text: key ideas, details, craft, structure; and literature: key ideas, craft, structure. Language and Writing includes capitalize, spell, punctuate; language: grammar, usage; Writing: purposes: plan, develop, edit; Text types and purposes, research. Vocabulary acquisition and use includes word meanings and relationships. Vocabulary use and functions includes language: context clues and references; vocabulary acquisition and use.

Students click an item to select the answer they want to choose. It tells students the name of the pictures in case students call it something else. For example it would say cane where a student may call it a stick.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, for reading comprehension questions; students read the entire passage on their own. They then answer the questions related to the passage. This is not timed. Some students take a lot longer than others. The report shows how long they took to take the assessment.

The Math K-2 test breaks down the skills and content as follows. The Geometry skill includes reason with shapes and their attributes. The Measurement and Data skill includes represent and interpret data and solve problems involving measurement. The Number and Operations skill includes Number and operations: base ten and fractions and Understand place value, counting, and cardinality. The Operations and algebraic thinking skill includes properties of operations and represent and solve problems.

For math, students have to be able to count looking at picture. There is a lot of processing and higher level questions for students. An example is a bar graph to interpret.

The MAP Growth Fall 2021 for Hilltop was shared. Kindergarten was not included because they didn't test in fall. We want to beat the national norm and be close to or above the system norm which we did for the fall after being out of school for summer break. We are currently taking it again and we will have a growth score on the next report. We want higher achievement and higher growth. We are pushing all students to show growth no matter if they are low, average, or high students.

Students know their individual growth goals. Where they scored in the fall and where they need to be. This is motivation for the students.

Dr. Glover thanked Dr. Bennett and teachers for leading instruction. Teachers are working very hard. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade shows that the numbers begin to change a little due to transition from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. They have more independent homework and less hand holding. Our students are still able to perform.

When students meet their goals, it helps them to believe in themselves and builds self-confidence. Knowing their goal helps them to sit down and focus.

### **Closing**

Mrs. Aiken said that she loves that we are opening the school more. She was able to see that her 3<sup>rd</sup> grader's letter to troops was on the wall when she came for the Kindergarten luncheon.

Dr. Glover said she appreciates parents and staff. We know that we still get sick, but we are pushing forward. We are not telling kids to hide from germs. We are teaching them how to be safe to deal with them instead.

During Academic Opportunity or Hawk Time, students will be changing classes in January in order to accelerate and or give extra support to students who are struggling with a skill.

We have had 4 students tested into the gifted program so far this year. Exposure is key.

Thank you all for your support. Holiday parties will be on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 3. Parents are not coming in but they are supporting. Some classes are doing CFA trays, some are doing pizza, and some are doing other snacks.

Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> is a half day. Mrs. Baggett asked what the attendance rate is for that half day. She said it makes it hard for working parents. Dr. Glover said that we have good attendance on those half days. She said to pay extra attention to next year's calendar because there are two days for students to work virtually and teachers to work in building. Teachers will make Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> fun. The dress up days have been going good and have been fun for all.

If you need anything call on us.

Amber Haslet made the motion to close the meeting. Mandy Cobb seconded the motion at 8:14 a.m.