**Hilltop Elementary School Council**

**September 13, 2021**

The Hilltop Elementary School Council met in regular session on September 13, 2021, at 7:32 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

Shawon Moody, Teacher & Parent

Shannon Grieshop, Teacher

Christie Baggett, Parent

Mandy Cobb, Parent

Leah Aiken, Parent

Amy Johnson, Parent

**Welcome**

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

**Call to Order**

Sandy Sawyer made motion to call meeting to order at 7:32. Christie Baggett seconded the motion.

**Pledge**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the group.

**Morning Program**

Dr. Glover is very excited to be here for the 21/22 in person School Council Meeting. Glad to be here and have the doors open. If you have any questions or comments just let us know. We have an agenda for today. We want to talk about a few things and how we are opening up our building. Any time you feel you need your mask, sanitizer, or need us to move back let us know.

**Introduction**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**School Demographics**

We currently have 563 students on roll. That is totally awesome. The reason I have this smile on my face is because two years ago our enrollment dropped when students were rezoned to Bonaire Primary and Bonaire Elementary. We have jumped back to our 550 and now are over that at 563. Teacher student ratio are 22 to 1. In upper grades it is higher with 25 to 1 in 5th grade. Student teacher ratio is much higher in upper grades. This is to be expected with state ratio because you can handle more students in the class. The higher grades have more foundational skills. We have no new positions as far as faculty and staff now but we have more programs.

**SMOSS Plan 2021-2022**

The SMOSS (Strategic Measures of Student Success) shows 2017 – 2022 growth and performance. On July 27th we met with Dr. Dumas and Dr. Hornyak to go over the SMOSS plan. Grades 3-5 did a phenomenal job. 5th math had total improvement in student growth. Mrs. Sawyer was part of that.

The SMOSS is broken down into the following sections: focus area, actions (what we plan to do to meet our goal), measure (tools we are using to measure our performance), grade level, score attainment for 2017-2021, and our target for the 21/22 school year.

Reflex math is on the way.

Utilizing data for Common Formative Assessment (CFA) teacher sharing data CFA’s on September. All students in each grade level are using the same CFA. This can be used for pretests and posttests.

Hopefully we will go back to Write Score program to help with writing.

Each year we are adding 1 point of growth. Can they go higher? Yes. Assessments are changing. GA Department of Education is changing. Take assessment but we are not sure what parts will be shared with us to share with parents. Eventually it will fade out.

If you will take time to look over this and see academic goals and meet or not by end of year.

On page 2 of the SMOSS, Dr. Bennett used her artistic ability cutting and pasting for us. Thank you.

Last page is safety and attendance. We are tightening up on our procedures with system. Respect those who want to wear masks. We have safety procedures and drills. Fire drills are held monthly, and twice a year we do Red, Blue, and Yellow drills. Parsons leads us in fire drills. Teachers have procedures in classroom for how they are staying safe.

Traveling trophy contest for attendance. 24 days out of quarantine. 100% but 3 kids quarantine. 100% here. Moody entire class home engaged so they want to stay at school. Students and teachers walk halls with their trophy. We will have popsicle and candy parties too. We’re going to be out in these times.

A parent asked if it was Dr. Glover’s decision to keep students home? Dr. Glover responded that we go by district policy. We don’t have to report if a case is in the classroom, only if direct contact with student.

We have seating charts in classroom. 1. Safe 2. How did it happen? 3. Teachers have voice. At lunch 2 students to a table.

Why quarantine and contact tracing when our kids cannot get vaccine yet? We are following district procedures. No major entire class quarantine except Moody and Rizinger. Teachers are doing great every day. Teachers stress levels are high. Leadership is looking at entire system. We are following policy and procedure. What effects Sawyer may effect Grieshop. If parent has it – kid quarantined due to direct contact

Parent said – she thinks we’re doing great.

Thank a teacher.

Story put on another hat with 4-H. 55 kids in the cafeteria. How are we going to quarantine 55 kids? Cannot put us in a box. We cannot grow that way.

**ARP Program**

Academic Readiness Program (ARP) The Federal government gave us funds to close the gap from when we were out of school. We are starting a tutoring program. We were granted a large sum of money. We will have morning and afternoon tutoring in reading and math. Teachers gave us a list of students who will benefit. Teachers volunteered. Some teachers want to wait until January. Get as many in as possible.

Kindergarten through 5th grade students tested on Map Data reading level to support.

3 Leveled literacy intervention kits at $5,000 each to help with tutoring in reading and IReady for math. There are teacher resources in the program. The program matches activities with students.

Parent invitations for morning and afternoon will be sent out. Money for bus transportation home. Lots of information to figure it out. Teachers interested in tutoring will meet tomorrow morning.

Parent – military wife – would you be open to college students in to tutor. Bennett wishes we could be right now we can only use our teachers. Glover mentioned possible ASP jobs for college students. They could make $12 / hour (up from $7) this year. Great incentive.

IReady is a technology program for reading and math. Students were recently given the diagnostic which places them on individual learning path so 1-4 or 6-10 whatever need is. It gives us domain (math – geometry / numbers and operations, etc.) So you know what they need. Purchased by county $25,000 per school. Students will spend 45 minutes a week on reading and math. Teachers are trying to get that in their schedule. Talked to technology department at Board of Education. We are trying to get more computers/chrome books as early as January.

Ms. Haslett explained – EIP struggling for math and reading. When students come in they have individual center, small group with teachers, paper lessons you can print out from IReady, then some on computer. Also kids are on their path – she can also assign lessons differentiated for the student. Reading does the same things. For example letter sounds. She pulls guided reading groups and computers.

Individual time and she can pull resources as well. What they know – what they don’t know and what’s next step. Also if they excel it takes them to next step.

Ms. Baggett used it in homework ad it seems very easy to use.

Ms. Haslett agreed that it is very user friendly. The kids seem to really like it. It is not frustrating for them.

**Closing**

We are moving in the direction of 1 to 1 computers. We are on the list for Board of Education support. New flat panel installation started last night. These are more up to date flat panels. The old technology goes back to the system and they follow the guidelines for them.

Fundraiser is going on right now. Before Spring Break 3rd – 5th grades will test. They really need the computers before then.

All but 6 virtual students came back. We lost 2 to cyber academy since school started. Right now we have 5 virtual babies.

Parents must weigh options sometimes it is scary when you get into the building. About 99% of our quarantined students are due to Middle and High School siblings. While quarantined, they virtually learn with Google Classroom. We have to give them work to do.

Mrs. Baggett said - Testing is a big component this year. If moms know what’s going on at school it helps. Math newsletters are great. In college students get a syllabus and that’s what she is used to.

Bennett said that our math standards are the same. Pacing guide may change a little. Reading still has same standards abut we have new Fountas and Pinnell Reading Program. In 5th grade listening and speaking is at beginning of year. The order may change, but same standards being taught.

Haslett said that packets of practice questions usually begin in January (next semester). Tests ask questions in a different way sometimes. A Parent night to explain GMAS domains will be held so they know what to expect.

Bennett said the Georgia Department of Education has a parent study guide with types of questions examples and explanations available now.

Ms. Johnson said she misses most walking the kids in and making a relationship with the teachers and administration. She sees why it’s dangerous due to safety. But there is a breakdown in communication.

Haslett said to try to reach out to teachers and request a zoom conference if needed.

Ms. Aiken said more information about what is going on in classroom would be helpful. She has no idea what her son is working on right now.

Glover said, teachers are teachers, but parents are the first teacher. Reach out to the teacher and ask them. We will have parent conferences in October. Teachers will meet the needs of the parents.

Ms. Johnson said that Mrs. Comer does one long dojo every Sunday night explaining what they are doing for the week. She appreciates it.

Glover said that teachers are stressed. But everyone is stressed and we all have to adapt. Part of the teacher’s job is graded on a communication standard. Some patients will take the medicine; some you have to make them take the medicine. Reach out to teachers. If they don’t reach out back. Communication door needs to be open.

1 more thing for us to do. So many different ways/strategies to deal with it. We must collaborate and work together. Start the year off right. Last year was survival and we did excellent job. This year will be great. Keep communication open. May be something you need as well.

Thank you for all you do.

Amber Haslet made the motion to close the meeting. Shannon Grieshop seconded the motion at 8:29 a.m.