



The September 28, 2017 School Council Meeting for Haven Elementary School was called to order at 4:35pm in the main office conference room by Ms. Dionne Young, Principal.

This was the first meeting for the 2017-2018 school year and members in attendance included:

- Elected Parent Representatives – Ms. Fallon Glover, Rev. Ray Singleton, Ms. Leslie Stevens
- Elected Teacher Representatives – Ms. Candas Brown and Ms. Aubrey Tate
- Potential Business Partner – Ms. Stephanie Johnson, SunTrust Bank
- Principal – Ms. Dionne Young
- Other – Mr. David Jackson, Parent

Ms. Young welcomed everyone and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The “Quote of the Day” was shared by Ms. Johnson.

- “Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.” W. E. B. DuBois

Members in attendance were then asked to introduce themselves.

Ms. Young shared information regarding the **Operation Beacon Volunteer Program** that has been implemented across the district. Introduced by Dr. Ann Levett, Operation Beacon is a way to better track parental and community volunteerism in the schools and also screen individuals working with students using a tiered system.

- Tier I – Limited student interaction (one-time events, PTA/ school council, book fairs, etc.)
- Tier II – Increased interaction with students with direct teacher or staff supervision (volunteers for classroom parties, clerical help, and frequent events like Junior Achievement)
- Tier III – Interaction with students where staff is present, but not necessarily directly supervising (mentors, tutors, field trip chaperones, etc.) **ALL Tier III volunteers will be required to have a full background check.**

Next Ms. Young briefly explained the role of the School Council. Ms. Young explained that:

- The council is advisory in nature and is comprised of teachers, business/community partners, and parents who are to be the majority of the group.
- The council is **required** to meet at least four (4) times during the school year at a time determined by the body.
- All meetings are open to other parents and community (public) unless the council has to select a new principal.
- The council has three officers: President/Chair (must be a parent), Vice President/Chair (typically principal, but can be another council member), and secretary.
 - The President/Chair is responsible for presiding over and leading the council’s meeting, but works with the principal to set the agenda.
- The council will discuss ways to help with student success and school improvement by reviewing school data and other recommended documents.

Ms. Young then led the selection of officers.

- Rev. Singleton volunteered to serve as the council’s chair person. Ms. Young made the motion to accept Rev. Singleton as the council chair. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Young asked for a nomination for co-chair. Rev. Singleton nominated Ms. Young. Ms. Brown made the motion to accept Ms. Young as the council’s co-chair. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Johnson volunteered to serve as secretary. Ms. Young made the motion to accept Ms. Johnson as the council’s secretary. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Young made a motion to accept Clarence Satchell, representing Charles Perry Partners, Inc. & Social Xposure LLC and Stephanie Johnson, representing SunTrust Bank as the councils’ business partners. Rev. Singleton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The group then decided that the next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 4:30** in the conference main office conference room. The schedule of remaining meetings will be determined at this time.

Ms. Young shared the following items of interest:

- Students should bring home a communication folder every Wednesday with important information for parents to review. If students do not have a communications folder, parents should contact their child's teacher.
- The school's marquee is now operational. Please check it out!
- Haven's calendar for October 2017 was shared with the group. The following dates were highlighted:
 - **October 6th** - The Savannah-Chatham Public School System's 2018 Teacher of the Year (TOTY) is Haven's own, Cindy Jefferies (2nd grade)!! Haven will have the privilege of flying the Flag of Learning and Liberty in Ms. Jefferies honor for the 2017-2018 school year. All in attendance were invited to attend the flag raising at 10:00 am.
 - **October 9th** – Originally scheduled as a teacher work day, this will be a Hurricane Irma evacuation make-up day for students.
 - **October 12th** - Haven will be participating in the Million Father March at 9:00 am. This event is designed to encourage positive male involvement with students and will feature a guest speaker. After the speech, "fathers" will walk around the school and down to Staley Ave. to show they support their children and Haven Elementary.
 - **October 14th** – Parent University will be held at the school at 9:00am and will focus on Early College. Parent University is a community collaborative that encourages "parent involvement and participation...in the education of our community's [students]."
 - **October 23rd** – The start of Red Ribbon Week which is a national campaign that encourages youth to be drug-free through education and drug prevention events and activities.
- Two new curriculum programs have been introduced to the district to help strengthen students' literacy and math skills.
 - **Eureka Math** was designed to help student tie math to the real world and increase problem solving skills to aid in the understanding of advanced mathematics.
 - **Balanced Literacy** which encourages students to read and write more frequently thereby increasing their chances for academic success. The school district has issued a **MILLION BOOK CHALLENGE** and is asking **each school** to collect **12,000** new or gently used books by May.
 - **ACORN** is the district's website for parents to receive tutorial help for their children. .
- Curriculum nights are in the process of being planned. Stay tuned!

With there being no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Johnson

Stephanie M. Johnson, Acting Secretary