

CEMA | SCHOOL COUNCIL | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 12/2/2019 3:33 PM | Meeting location CEMA Media Center

Attendees:

Chairperson	<i>Sarah Smith</i>
Principal	Tanya Melville
Teachers	Wonda Goodwin , Trent Kissinger
Parents	Samanta Allman, Daniela Lee Bringman, Amanda Fanelli, Brendan Ferrara, Suzy Wallace Karpf, Gloria Rigsbee
Business/Community Partners	Melody Burks, Denise Grabowski, Lynn Franklin (call in)

Guest and others attending

Agenda topics

TOPIC	DISCUSSION and Summary*
OPENING: INSPIRATION	Inspiration, provided by Ms. Lynn Franklin “Every day in a big or small way, school organizations do something important, something special, something difficult, something meaningful – or all of the above! It’s time you noticed what other people see in your group—someone who makes good things happen!” -Pat Conroy
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	The minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting were approved with corrections.
Principal’s Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing window is now open and hope to conclude by 12/16; varies by students’ needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GEP testing and assessments are at the same time which affects timing and planning in terms of rooms used and students being tested. Something to keep in mind for future testing. • Parent Workshops have been very poorly attended. It is very disappointing to have a lack of parent involvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Possibly offer a lunch and learn program. Revisit an old PTA event “Lunch with Me” and have parents come in for a lunch with their child, then children return to class while parents remain for a workshop ○ Need to establish a priority of where these workshops fit in with schedules; not necessarily based on interest/desire, but more about logistics ○ Perhaps working more closely with PTA to offer a workshop during the PTA meeting, given all teachers are in attendance
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMS Certification: Issue lies in trying to trail back to Shelia Garcia-Wilder and bring everyone up to speed to determine where we are in the process. Then a meeting needs to happen to involve Larry Jackson and Dr. Levett, if needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All documentation is available on our end – it is a matter of tracking down the documentation on the financial end to cover all expenses. <i>Core concern-where the money is coming from?</i> ○ AMS core group to meet and create a storyline and plan to move forward – what has happened, what needs to happen and how to move forward.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Directly affecting the 2nd cohort of teachers completing credentialing/training (certificates currently being withheld); as well as dues for AMS. ○ Still on hold for the letter regarding the implementation of a 3-year old program from Dr. Levett ● Traffic Safety - We are experiencing traffic issues within the Ardsley Park neighborhood. Families are parking to walk children to school and blocking driveways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A call out to families will be happening with reminders of being courteous of all neighbors. ○ Suggestion made to reach out to the city about installing “No Right Turn”/”No Left Turn” during drop-off/dismissal times at Battey. Denise will reach out to city traffic engineering, as well as give Mr. Tyler and the Safety Committee a heads up. ● Transparent Classroom: nothing to report. ● Font Vestibule: no updates. ● Shade Sails – Information from Garrison PTA was provided on their shade sails. Their PTA worked directly with the school principal, Mr. Heater. The company they worked with offered them a deal on discontinued materials to keep costs down. PTA paid for sails and installation (total cost less than \$12K). They recommend we closely look over warranty information if we decide to move forward to ensure things are covered, as they are experiencing issues following some damages with one of theirs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding options need to be reviewed – this will be tabled, and council will bring PTA into the conversation to discuss further. ○ Perhaps some alternatives to the sails need to be considered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Denise will reach out to Emergent Structures, landscape architect.
<p><i>New Business</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strawbridge Studios – we are contractually bound for fall, but open to use any photographer for spring photos. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Olivia and Ms. Angie are working on creating a school yearbook this year. ○ For spring photos, individual photographers may be used to come in and take photos. Maybe Jamie Weaver, she has worked with Ellis before. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suzy will weed through the Facebook thread of suggestions to gather other ideas. ▪ Perhaps offer spring photos as a MESS fundraiser. ▪ Confirm with Ms. Lisa about information for the barcode database to make full use of the program. ▪ Information to photographers – currently 482 students, offer individual and class photo. ● HUB Transportation – important to keep an eye on this, as the proposed plan is to continue to roll this out across all student levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Savannah Arts PTSA will be holding a meeting and would like to invite the Ellis Community to attend as well. Information will be sent when details are confirmed. ● Lost & Found – Discussion on options to have items out so they are more accessible for students to be able to sort through. Current way they are stored make it very difficult to find items. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Place/lay items out during upcoming Festival of Lights and PTA meetings for pick up. ○ Offer a monthly or quarterly purge of items through donation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide information to families through call/email notification.
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PTA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership drive, membership goal of 200, currently at 176 ○ Reflections showcase was a huge success with over 20 entries, 25 moving on to District judging 12/6. Thanks to Amanda for coordinating, Perc as a business partner for hosting and Dionne for food. ○ Thank you to those who supported and volunteered for Fall Festival; Erdkinder students did a wonderful job helping with food and games. ○ “Do Good Things” Grants awarded to 7 students, with projects including toiletry bags for the homeless, fundraiser in Circle Park raising money for the homeless and sewing teddy bears for children staying at Ronald McDonald House. ○ Health & Wellness Committee – Greenery sale completed, thank you to Heidi and Sam for work on this. Pond improvements coming in coordination with Mr. Sean. Thanks to volunteers helping with wellness screenings with Nurse Chris, especially Sam and Heidi. ○ Read-A-Thon successfully concluded, thank you Ms. Lisa. ○ Kelly Pack, serving on Georgia State PTA Legislative Committee. ○ National PTA School of Excellence application submitted (thank you Kelly). ○ Upcoming Events: Parent Advocacy Workshop 12/7, Festival of Lights 12/10, Boosterthon begins 1/6/2020, Membership meeting 1/23, Spring Teacher Grant Application/Opportunities TBA, Bobcat Dads Role Model Readers TBA. ● MESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Holiday Party is being moved to March 27, 2020 and will be hosted by the Roma Family. Currently deciding on a theme. ○ Very successful Fall Photo Shoot Fundraiser, the highest grossing one to date! ○ Currently on hold for a “Teacher Celebration” (due to the certificates being withheld) to recognize the latest cohort for completion.
Reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Times have changed, and science has made great progress, and so has our work; but our principles have only been confirmed, and along with them our conviction that mankind can hope for a solution to its problems, among which the most urgent are those of peace and unity, only by turning its attention and energies to the discovery of the child and to the development of the great potentialities of the human personality in the course of its formation.” -Maria Montessori <p>Provided by Ms. Tanya “This is truly at the foundation of what we do.”</p>

Meeting adjourned 4:54pm

Submitted by: Gloria Rigsbee