

Sope Creek School Council

Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2016

Meeting Begins at 7:30

Present: Doug Daugherty, Karen Carstens, Lauren Rabil, Linda Kurtz, Brandi Cheeley, Megan Heinze, Susie Davis, Aimee Pulley, Kristy Flowers, Susie Harris Jyo Shriram

Introductions

Training

Watched the School Council training video at: <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/chiefstaff/>

Reviewed the Bylaws. Each member received a copy. Dr. Daugherty specifically reviewed the sections on member voting, election of officers, meeting dates.

School Strategic Plan

Every public school is required to have a school council and a school strategic plan. The SSP is designed to draw a straight line from the Superintendent's goals to our classroom goals. The Superintendent sets broad goals for the county. Schools determine the actions needed to accomplish the district goals.

Reviewed the District Focus Priorities and how we have aligned our key actions. Sope Creek's School Strategic Plan can be reviewed here:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/56e77d_456df79452104310958c6e13dd2cd1be.pdf

Dr. Daugherty reviewed two goals that were established specifically for Sope Creek that center around writing instruction and STEM certification.

Legislative Update

Kristy Flowers – A very important issue is coming up this Election Day. There is a constitutional amendment that will be voted on:

Shall the constitution be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing schools to improve performance?

This sounds like something positive, but what it really means is that the state government will take away local control of schools. The governor will appoint one person that reports directly to him. The governor will identify the failing school (these methods of identification are flexible and not transparent).

One of the ways to be considered a failing school is through growth. We don't want anyone to overlook the danger to high-achieving schools. If we don't show growth (even at the highest levels of achievement we could be considered a failing school).

CCRPI is one of the ways to judge schools. We have had this in place for three years and every year the benchmark numbers, the requirements, etc have been tweaked by the government.

This is really legislation to allow for-profit charters to be put in place at the local level.

Absentee voting has started. You can request an absentee ballot

Registration can happen until October 11

Election Day is November 8

The State PTA has come out against this amendment. The following videos were shown:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrsCe4HeyHM>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9P_7_CGHpo

If a school is designated a failing school, the taxpayers lose the school, the employees, the teaching materials. These are all transferred to the profit-driven charter school.... However the county taxpayers will still be required to pay for the maintenance.

There needs to be a concerted effort to assisting failing schools... but this is not the way. The real problem is funding, not school governance.

Please do your research and look how this amendment will affect all children. Please encourage everyone to vote on this important issue.

This has been modelled on the states of Tennessee and Louisiana. Both states are retracting this amendment because they have found it doesn't work.

Election of School Council

- Chair: Megan Heinze
- ViceChairperson: Jyo Shriram
- Secretary: Aimee Pulley

Open Agenda

Discussion continued about OSD. Clarification that the governor appointee may not know anything about the community they have been placed into. The "person" taking over the school can't change the school. The issue is so much more. If the governor knows how to fix the problem, why hasn't he fixed it through laws and restoring the funding formulas? This does not need a constitutional amendment. Allow the local schools to keep local control

PTA:

Inside Track today: Meet the Administration

Boosterthon was a supreme success

October 4 at 10:00 in Leadership Lodge. Dr. Daugherty will be presenting on CCRPI.

October 15 – Octoberfest

Celebrate! A National School Of Excellence award was given to our PTA

Next Meetings:

- November 18
- January 20
- March 24

Meeting adjourns at 8:23.