

LSAC MINUTES FOR January 14, 2010

Attendees: Mr. Forti (Principal), Laurie Cullen (LSAC President), Kevin Buchanan (LSAC Vice President), Nadira Merchant (LSAC Parent), Melanie Staus (LSAC Business Partner), Barbara Bell (LSAC Teacher), Marcia Mika (LSAC Teacher), Cori Holmes (LSAC Teacher), Edith Wichser (LSAC Secretary), Jeff Vance (LSAC Parent), Rhonda Howerton (PTA President), Robert Lynch (Roswell Area Superintendent), Lee Ann Jones (PTA Community Affairs), Ms. Toomer (Assistant Principal), SAE Parents: Paige Mesaros, Libby Fields, Krista Elema, Cynthia Kornetzke, Student Teacher,

Mr. Forti welcomed all. LSAC members and guests were introduced. November 12, 2009 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Lynch announced Mr. Forti's retirement was approved by the School Board. He went on to outline the new principal selection process, as well as, the formation of the Interview Committee. Mr. Lynch will lead the interview team which includes Dr. Linda Anderson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, a Roswell area Principal, a Human Resources representative, up to two or three SAE parents (from the local LSAC & PTA Board), two SAE teachers (teacher of the year & the leadership teacher) and a local Business partner. He confirmed the position was posted on January 13th and closes on February 10th to begin the selection process. The interview scheduled for February 25th will be held at the Fulton County School Board offices. The goal is to present the final recommendation at the March School Board meeting for approval/hire and begin the transition to the new principal before the end of the school year. Once the Board approves the recommended candidate a formal communication will be released.

In the meantime, a Fulton County School Board Parent and Teacher Survey will be sent out soon. The survey sheets will be collected at SAE and forwarded to Mr. Lynch. The responses will be collected and shared with the Interview Committee. At which time the Interview Committee will pre-select a list of questions for the interview.

Mr. Forti announced the recent communication release by the Fulton County Schools regarding the improvement and academic excellence of 31 schools. Sweet Apple Elementary was one of the schools recognized for its academic achievement.

In addition, available on the Fulton County Schools website www.fultonschols.org is an Annual Performance Report available for each school. This report outlines school improvement results, competency tests results, school highlights and achievements.

The teacher report was presented by Mrs. Holmes regarding the fifth grade UGA writing assessment results. About 90% of the fifth grade students scored in the "meets or exceeds" category, about 5% in the "borderline" and about 6% in the "does not meet" category. The teachers will meet individually with each student to review their work. The writing rubric developed by the SAE writing committee is successful and unique since there are no writing guidelines established at the county level. The fourth grade also took the UGA writing assessment.

Mr. Forti reviewed and provided copies of ITBS scores for all Fulton County Schools. These test scores are available on the Fulton County Schools website www.fultonschols.org. The ITBS was taken in September by the 3rd and 5th grades.

Lee Ann Jones inquired about the music (band and orchestra) budget cuts and the need for more information.

Edith Wichser inquired about the status of the re-writing of the Math curriculum to a more traditional format. Mr. Forti mentioned this change will be the 4th year in a row the Math Curriculum and textbooks will change. Although the Georgia Math book does not address all the required math standards it will be the primary math book. An imperative goal is to have stability in the math curriculum and provide enough lead time to train the teachers prior to the beginning of the school year.

At the next meeting the PTA fundraising survey results will be discussed.