

**LSAC MINUTES FOR
October 15, 2009**

Attendees: Mr. Forti (Principal), Justin Staus (LSAC Business Partner), Kevin Buchanan (LSAC Vice President), Laurie Cullen (LSAC President), Barbara Bell (LSAC Teacher), Marcia Mika (LSAC Teacher), Cori Holmes (LSAC Teacher), Cindy Kiernan (Curriculum Coordinator), Edith Wichser (LSAC Secretary), Jeff Vance (LSAC Parent), Nadira Merchant (LSAC Parent), Lee Ann Jones (PTA Community Affairs)

Mr. Forti welcomed all. Minutes were reviewed & approved.

Mr. Forti informed committee of his retirement effective April 1, 2010. A search committee will be established by Bob Lynch to interview replacement candidates.

Mr. Forti reviewed the End of the Year results with focus on three areas of achievement: Math, Language Arts, & Writing. In Math the major changes were due to the change from the traditional math program to the new math program. In Language Arts the focus was on the level 1 students & extra support will be provided. In Writing can only use the fifth grade writing assessment scores & each year the groups of students change, therefore, a Writing Committee was formed to focus on issues & develop school guidelines. As a result, this year the 4th & 5th graders will take the UGA writing Fall Assessment to have some comparison writing for future testing.

Nadira Merchant questioned if any gaps existed in SAE writing program. The response was not necessarily it is just the County's Language Arts program does not have a writing component; therefore, each school goes out to find their own writing program. Ms. Kiernan mentioned that lots of writing takes place in the classroom focusing on individual areas. This year a standard rubric is used for a writing grade.

Mr. Forti talked about the School Improvement Plan which administration is looking at performance measures by clustering grades 3, 4, & 5 to focus on moving students to higher levels. The December checkpoints will be used to adjust student learning levels. Mathasium, a business partner, donated two math scholarships for Math level 1 students – two 5th grade students were selected. Also, all teachers were provided with updated training to use on the Active Boards. The power point flip charts available through the Active Board network enhance the visual resources available to help students understand & learn lessons. CRCT testing was the result from No Child Left Behind & the testing measure will not go away but future changes may exist.

A teacher report was provided by the 5th Grade teachers, Ms. Mika & Ms. Holmes. On their TAG day the non-TAG students have GAT day. During a GAT day no new lessons are given but the students work on a class project related to their studies. The current project was researching the world. Each student selected a country to make country travel brochures. The project is concluded with an international buffet.

Also, a brief summary of the 5th Grade field trip to Rock Eagle was provided. Even though the trip started with rain storms it turned into a nice day allowing all activities to continue. The students enjoyed themselves from learning how to use a compass to participating in team building activities.

Justin Staus, Mathasium Business Partner, provided an update about the Superintendent's meeting. A two year project to build a web portal for an overall system use was awarded to Microsoft & Dell. Upon completion all parents will be able to see their own individual student's information. Also, an AYP update that 4 to 5 schools have a significant drop in scores that have not met standards. Elkins Point Middle School was last reported as not meeting AYP, but due to the summer school work by students as of two weeks ago Elkins Point now meets AYP.

Sweet Apple is one of 33 schools that will participate in the "Principal for a Day" in which a community member steps into the Principal role. The Canton Management Company will be at SAE as Principal in November.

Lee Ann Jones informed the committee about an upcoming Middle School Forum to be held at SAE. The forum will have a panel of Elkins Point students, parents, PTA member(s) & Principal to discuss their experience at the Middle School. A Q/A session will follow with pre-submitted questions.

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 12, 2009.