

Centennial High School Governance Council

Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2021 3:45 p.m.

Rescheduled from January 21 due to power outage.

(This meeting does allow time for public comment)

Members Present: Principal Campbell, Kelly Cave, Anne Johnson, Zachary Kroll, Raquel Martinez, Gail Ritchie

Members Absent: Chris Buechner, Amy Hastings, Andrew Traub, Katie Troline, Tamara McDuffie, Sam Navarro, Weymouth Walker

Guests Present: Heidi Ruppe (counselor) and 1 representative from Applerouth, Christine (filling in for Kate)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:51 p.m.

II. Public Comments (two 2 min slots)

No public comments

III. Introductions

Introduction of Heidi Ruppe and representatives from Applerouth

IV. Action Items

A. Approval to change the January 21, 2021 to the February 4, 2021 Agenda

The date changed from originally scheduled date of January 21, 2021 and Charter Dollars discussion moved to 1st item to discuss. A motion was made to change and approve the February 4, 2021 agenda by Zachary Kroll and was seconded by Raquel Martinez. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Approval of the December 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Gail Ritchie and was seconded by Kelly Cave. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Discussion of using Charter Dollars for SAT/ACT Test Prep for March Test

Christine and Kate from Applerouth spoke about background of Applerouth and why they feel they are better than “big box” test prep companies and what services they offer. Representatives state that the average increase of SAT score is 130 points and average increase in ACT score is 5 points. Stated they offer self-paced, in-person group (online during COVID-19) and customized tutoring. Discussed offering 1-3 sessions which would accommodate 5-25 students at a cost of \$399 per student. Sessions are usually 2 hours long and are held over a 10 week period. Concerns were brought up about whether there was ample time to prepare students for upcoming March 13 test date and whether the tutoring schedule would be too intense/overwhelming to complete in such a short time. Mr. Campbell stated that SAT/ACT improvement was an initiative of the Fulton County School Board as part of the Strategic Plan. Anne asked if there should be “buy in” for students such as paying a portion of the fee, even if it is a very small amount. Mr. Campbell stated he felt it was important that the test be free so that there would be no financial barriers. Mr. Kroll suggested instead of a monetary buy in, we should have the kids be accountable by signing a contract. Members agreed this part of the discussion could be put on hold until after a vote was made. Kelly asked what percentage of students at Centennial were college prep and Mrs. Ruppe stated 74% attended 4-year colleges and 11% attended 2-year colleges. Kelly stated she was concerned that almost all colleges are test optional this year, some are test blind and that some schools have already stated they will remain test optional; and expressed concern that the SGC would use funds for a test that may not be required next admissions cycle. SGC agreed that they would vote on whether to use Charter Dollars for Applerouth test Prep at the next meeting and to possibly consider using it for tests later in spring/early summer.

D. Principal's Report

Mr. Campbell stated there would be no RFFs for the 2021-22 school year and due date for 2022-23 will be in December 2021. There will be new guidelines to ensure RFFs are innovative and worthwhile. SPLOST money from several years ago was being used to install a new marquis at front of school. Fulton County has had increased numbers in both middle and high schools and will have 2 new schools – Innovation Academy, and an Online Virtual Academy that is yet to be named.

E. SGC Survey

Gail stated that questions for student/teacher survey are ready but awaiting approval and fine tuning by Mr. Campbell and have not yet been sent out. Videos to help students and parents are pending as well.

F. SGC Elections

Candidate Declaration period is open. Discussion on promotion of positions including Twitter/Social Media and in the Newsletter. Mr. Campbell stated he would check if Mr. Buechner could do this and that he would reach out to feeder schools as well.

G. Graduation Date Announcement

Graduation will be May 23, 2021 at 5 pm. The venue can accommodate 500 students and 1,500 family members and will also have a live stream. Efforts are being made by administration and counselors to reach out to students in jeopardy of not graduating.

H. Budget and Finance Committee

Budget and Finance Committee to meet on 3/18. Motion made by Ms. Martinez and seconded by Kelly Cave.

V. Action Items

Agenda for February 18, 2021 Meeting at 3:45 pm

- A. Chartered Dollars
- B. Principal's Report
- C. SGC Surveys
- D. Community Collaboration Video Updates
- E. SGC Candidate Declaration & Schedule Updates (Communications & Outreach Committee)

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.