

GSF 11/14/18 General Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Tami McCall, Adam Treewater, Kyri McClellan, Principal Richardson, Cielo Kirk, Keala Landry, Allison Rabb, Kathryn Elia, Cheryl Riley, Dena Richardson, Ashley Walter, John Dasher, Sarah Brewer, Beth Sauls, Ramina Winton, Meghan Dasher, Amy Parsley, Lisa Patrizia, Subha Mannargudi, Will Richardson, Aliza Davidi, Amy Baer, Kristin Maguire, Jennifer Chandler, Elaina Shelton, Janet Ryan, Dan Ryan, Mary Orellana, Mariella Garcia, Gina Hagen, Chris Welch, Maribeth Davies, Jennifer Moore, Jody Janzen, Val Brovelli, Zar Sewell, Clifford Sewell, Marica May (38 total)

Welcome @ 6:05pm

(Kyri McClellan) Hello! We have Davidson Principal Mr. Marcucci here and some students to share their Davidson experience!

(Principal Marcucci) Welcome! I brought some packets with some information in them for you. I am excited to be here! I also brought 4 Cougars that used to be Eagles. Sometimes the wisdom that comes out of these guys is better than anything I could say. I LOVE Davidson. It is a true representation of this city. The diversity, and what a school needs to do to be agile in order to serve the diverse needs, makes our school unique. And in a lot of ways better than you would find elsewhere. It is an asset and something to be celebrated. The people that are there, want to be there! The staff really wants to be there and we are so thoughtful and dedicated. We are constantly trying to get better. Middle School is a time in everyone's life that is intense, it can be positive and confusing at the same time. I love being a part of getting them prepared for high school and beyond. Ask questions that we can help explain to you. It is going to be okay, it really is. These 4 students are thriving! We should be proud of them!

(Jack McCall) I am a 6th grader. Davidson is really awesome!

(Eliza Gould) I'm in 8th grade.

(Leyla Winton) I'm in 7th grade and I love Davidson!

(Sami Riley) I'm in 6th grade. It's an awesome school!

(Principal Marcucci) What burning questions do you have?

You can sign up for a tour now. We usually do them once a month and anyone is welcome to come! Kids are welcome to come on the tour too.

One of the things with incoming 6th graders, is they get to come visit during their 5th grade year. Then they get to come to Camp Cougar the Friday before school actually starts and meet with our 7th and 8th grade WEB leaders. They also get their schedules, take a tour, get their gym clothes, etc. The 6th grade program is very separate. They only have classes with other 6th graders and they have their own lunch period.

(Jack McCall) When we did our field trip during 5th grade we were welcomed by a tunnel of older kids and then got put into groups with a bunch of people and got a tour of the school.

(Sami Riley) Camp Cougar was really helpful because we got our schedule and got to see where our classes are.

Get your child a dial/combo lock and help them learn how to use it. The lockers can be frustrating.

Citizenship. What I am hearing is what is the cultural and climate like? It is a huge focus for us. And as a Principal that is huge for me. We utilize the PBIS structure for behavioral responses. We have clear responses to bad behavior. We have a Dean of Students that handles 99% of the issues. We have a robust peer court and do restorative circles. We also do brief interventions since we have better counseling support this year. There are also reward and incentive programs in place. I could go on and on about this. We are always trying to find ways to encourage students to treat each other well.

(Eliza Gould) Leyla and I are in peer court. It helps because suspension is not always the best option. It helps them find ways to help repair the damage they have caused. There is a pool of about 25-30 kids trained for peer court.

(Leyla Winton) Peer Court is a great system. It is confidential and we respect that. Provides good alternatives to suspension.

My message is that we are better than some of the current events we hear about in the news.

(Leyla Winton) There are a lot of different clubs. I am in Book Club. It is after school and for all grades. We also have Children for Change community service club.

(Jack McCall) There is a Maker's Club, Harry Potter Club, Pokemon Club...

The clubs give kids opportunities to find other kids that have the same interests.

Academic achievement is recognized through Honor Roll each quarter. They are also often awarded PAWSITIVE awards on Fridays.

(Jack McCall) For Honor Roll there is the Principal's Honor Roll and Academic Honor Roll. There is a ceremony in the gym, they call your name, you get an award, and your parent's can come and take pictures.

(Sami Riley) Glenwood could teach you how to get better organized.

(Leyla Winton) We have tabs in our binders for each class to keep us organized.

(Jack McCall) Glenwood could also teach you better time management. How to use your time wisely.

There is an expectation that all students will have a 2-2.5 inch binder with dividers for school. Kids need to get in the habit of using an agenda and checking things off that need to be done. You get to Davidson and you have 6 different classes and teachers.

(Eliza Gould) At Glenwood we had Science for half the year and Art for half the year. In middle school you have Science all year round.

We definitely have a whole department of Special Education Staff. They have specific classes that they teach based on the students and IEP's. In terms of accelerated classes, all the other classes are heterogeneously grouped classes. We don't divide students up and track them. The staff feels really strongly that is the best way for students. We do have a 7th/8th grade compressed math program for the students that qualify. Otherwise the kids do math 6th. We are talking about doing away with the compressed math program because they are finding gaps in the learning so when they get to High School they are not completely prepared. We do have a mathletes club.

(Leyla Winton) Academically I think it is a good balance of challenging. Most of the time when they are teaching a new curriculum you have to be creative.

(Eliza Gould) A lot of times in our classes we do group work. They will often put us in groups with different types of students so we learn to work with others. It is good experience for real life.

(Jack McCall) One of my teachers told me that: "in your group there are going to be people you can help and there are going to be people that can help you". That is really helpful. Some people work at different paces.

(Eliza Gould) I am in the Math 8th Algebra (accelerated program). We have more tests and go through the material faster. It is definitely challenging. You really have to study. Most teachers have tutoring during lunch, and some do after school too.

We also have a HW club after school on M, W, and F.

(Jack McCall) In 5th grade I heard the middle school homework was enormous. But now I realize that it is based on skill level. Sometimes you have a lot of homework and sometimes not a lot.

(Eliza Gould) You have to try hard to forget where your classes are.

(Sami Riley) You have 5 minutes between classes so it is hard to be tardy.

(Eliza Gould) In 7th grade I thought accelerated math was going fast but I still understood it, but this year there are more kids that are having a hard time keeping up.

We have parent education opportunities throughout the year. Every 6th grader takes the skills wheel. It includes: brainology, team building, digital literacy, and AVID strategies (organization). I think one piece that might be missing for us is how we are getting our 6th grade parents prepared and engaged. We have SchoolLoop at Davidson that is an online app where teacher post assignments and grades and you can check in in real time. It is crucial for parents to stay in the loop. You can message teachers through SchoolLoop. The students have access to their SchoolLoop account.

(Kyri McClellan) Thank you Principal Mr. Marcucci and Cougars for coming!

(Dena Richardson) Thrive update. We have \$168K in the bank, we have another \$9K in pledges, \$10K match coming in, and \$11,950 in corporate matches coming in. So if all that comes in we'll have \$198,950!

(Kathryn Elia) Budget. We are in good financial health. If you ever have any questions about the budget please feel free to contact me directly.

(Ashley Walters) Community Engagement. Food drive is going on now. Ends on 11/20. Carolling is on Tues., Dec. 11th. An email just went out on volunteer squad with some volunteer opportunities. Holiday Toy Drive flyers are going home on Friday.

(Chris Welch) Dad's Club building party coming up, check for updates on Facebook.

(Cheryl Riley) Retail programs we're doing: Good Eggs, Amazon Smile, & Sports Basement. Info coming home in the hip pockets. Dine and Donate 12/3 at Amici's.

(Mr. Treewater) K: Nutcracker field trip, Thanksgiving celebration. 1st: Planetarium field trip, garden planning. 2nd: government unit, enjoying yoga. 3rd: animal adaptation, Academy of Science field trip, Ocean Warriors. 4th: Grandparent/Special Friend Tea next week, enjoying PE. 5th: Outdoor Ed postponed, Desktop teaching with Mr. T and Mrs. Murphy is doing simulated night hikes with blindfolds.

(Principal Richardson) Thank you to everyone for all of your contributions! I appreciate all the volunteer efforts. All the District's Principals met and decided we want to do a combined effort to raise money for the Paradise School. We are going to pool our change as a District and donate it to their District. The kids have been great and flexible about being indoors all week. We are working with the Superintendent regarding the air quality situation. It is recommended they come to school. The Teachers are really stepping up.

(Gina Hagen) If we are going to continue to keep the kids indoors I think we need to get more volunteers to help in the classrooms.

(Principal Richardson) The topic of PE. National Academy of Athletics have provided us Coach Quest to run our PE program through December. He has a curriculum and brings his own equipment. I have conversations with staff and we will continue to have them as we decide what our program should look like going forward. There is a possibility that we can keep using this program throughout the rest of this year. For now we have a contract covering 6 weeks - the first 2 weeks is playground games/skills and then in Dec a 4 week unit on basketball tailored for each grade level. Teachers are reporting that kids are returning from PE having moved and played for the entire time, even when they have been indoors due to smoke.

(Adrienne Collet) Is the cost feasible to continue for this year?

(Kyri McClellan) It is net neutral or slightly less than our prior PE contract.

(Zar Sewell) Does everyone have to do basketball?

(Principal Richardson) They are all going to learn basketball, including skills.

(John Dasher) Are state standards being addressed at different grade levels?

(Principal Richardson) Yes. There are developmental skills that are standards and those will be addressed. They have a thorough plan for each grade level.

(Gina Hagen) Parents talk about the changes. There have been parents that were previously concerned that the needed of all students were not being met.

(Beth Sauls) What is involved with the plan for where PE is going at Glenwood?

(Principal Richardson) We have a group of teachers that are meeting and planning for where we envision our PE program going.

(Kyri McClellan) I anticipate that we may want to continue to hire this PE company through January for our PE needs until we decide how we want to move our program forward. We will probably talk about how the program is going at the Dec. GSF meeting on 12/12.

(Zar Sewell) Does the funding come from GSF or the District?

(Kyri McClellan) The GSF pays for the PE program.

(Val Brovelli) What have you told the kids? It wasn't executed very well.

(Principal Richardson) I understand the feedback regarding the situation with communicating with the kids. It needs to be a way that is helpful for them but we are not trying to damage anyones reputation and we have to be confidential.

(Dan Ryan) We want to hear from the GSF since they made the decision.

(Kyri McClellan) *PE termination/Q&A*

Board Meeting ended @ 7:50pm