

**Shakerag Elementary School Governance Council
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2014**

Members present: Martin Neuhaus, Karen James, Sheri McMillon, Michelle Skalka, Russell Beane, Laura Benscoter, Jenny Johnson, Bindu Damidi and Lynette Baker (Rao Manekar was absent)

The meeting was called to order by Michelle at 7:30 a.m.

Sheri moved to approve the September 30th, minutes and Bindu seconded; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Lynette moved to approve the agenda and Russell seconded; the agenda was unanimously approved.

Principal's update:

- Fulton County graduation rate increased to 78.2%. Goal is 90%.
- Shakerag had a smooth ITBS week.
- We received great support feedback about our positive environment from recent NELC visit.
- The carnival was very successful.
- Interactive projectors were installed in all classrooms.
- First Super Sharks celebration was successful.
- 29 students were selected for the Student Lighthouse Team. They have been charged with a theme for our upcoming Lighthouse Day.
- The school visits to the Museum school and Wauka Elementary were very informative. The Museum school does not use a grading system and has a waiver for personnel requirements. Wauka is a learning styles school with individualized specials. Questions for the Principals – What don't they do and what do they give up?
- Next school visit is to the Ron Clark Academy on Dec. 5th. Shakerag Foundation is funding 10 staff members.

RFF Interest Form Feedback and Discussion:

- RFF Interest Form Feedback and discussion on how to make SGC more transparent. We are asking for teacher and parent feedback. We have received some staff concerns regarding the size increase for special areas. Discussed handout on what the special area schedule could look like based on current numbers. Teachers like the option that provided a special for each day of the week.
- System level feedback for increasing class size in special areas to hire STEM teacher was considered creative budgeting. They questioned the class size limitations and itinerant para-pro positions.
- Michelle motioned to post RFF for public comment period, Sheri seconded and it was unanimously approved.

- Public Comment Period through Dec. 10th for the RFF. Postings located at front desk with comment box, front page of Shakerag website, school messenger and on the SGC page.
- Open comment period at 12/2 SGC meeting.

Seed Fund Ideas:

- Requests for Seed Fund monies are due Dec. 10th including the interest form, application and presentation to the foundation board.
- Site License for Rosetta Stone, technology integration teacher, continue ASL teacher
- Bring more ideas to Dec. 2nd meeting.

Next meeting date will be December 2, 2014 at 7:30AM.

December 16, 2014 at 7:15am, meeting for final vote on publicized Waiver.

Karen moved to adjourn, Laura seconded; and the motion passed unanimously.

Martin Neuhaus, Principal • Laurie Chans, Assistant Principal
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