

AASD
School Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Debbie Metzler – Parent, Kenney Moore – School Director, Samia Mohammed – Parent, Sheryl Nelson – Parent, Amanda Chilvers – AASD State Testing Coordinator, Kristi Merriweather – Teacher, Nneka Alston – Parent and Recreation Director, Kayleen Pugh – Teacher, Evan Ferguson, Megan Metzler, ShayneDonavan Elliot, Jamie Fields – Student Council, Donna Flanders – AASD staff interpreter, Guests: Michelle Tarbutton – GaDOE, Renee Gipson – Youth Minds of America

Visitors

- Youth Minds of America – Mrs. Renee Gipson provided information on she and her husband’s 501(c)(3) organization. The non-profit educational organization is dedicated to bringing audio, video, and multimedia communications technology within reach of at-risk and underserved youth between ages 14-18, including youth who are visually impaired or deaf or hard of hearing. Mrs. Joyce Fongbemi will communicate with Mrs. Gipson to determine how Youth Minds of America can work with AASD to get students involved in the program.
- Ms. Michelle Tarbutton, GaDOE Parent Engagement, Program Manager, brought greetings on behalf of GaDOE. Ms. Tarbutton will be working with the three State Schools to support and expand parental involvement.
- Ms. Samia Mohammed, Parent Representative, gave a presentation on possible uniform options from Old Navy. Ms. Mohammed showed sampled of potential outfits. Representatives from the Student Council expressed their support of having school uniforms. The students stated they would prefer blue, black, or white shirts. Mrs. Vanessa Robisch, AASD Principal, said that collared shirts would be best. The students agreed. The students said that the School Council could approve the type and style of the uniforms. Mr. Kenney Moore, School Director, asked the students if they would help in choosing the styles also. The students agreed. Ms. Mohammed will take pictures of each item of clothing and students will get to vote on what they like best. Students will not have to purchase the clothing from just Old Navy, but Old Navy is willing to work with the school regarding prices that are economical.

School Council Protocols

- New School Council Members – Mr. Moore introduced the two teachers that were nominated and voted for to fill the two vacant teacher positions on the School Council. The teachers are Kristi Merriweather and Kayleen Pugh. Mr. Moore said that Mrs. Amanda Chilvers, AASD State Testing Coordinator, was nominated and voted in to fill the support staff member vacant position on the School Council. Mrs. Judi Oliver, proposed new community School Council member representative was unable to attend the meeting.
- Officer Nominations – Mr. Moore led the officer nominations and voting for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson vacant positions. Mrs. Nneka Alston, AASD Recreation Director and parent of an AASD student was voted in as Chairperson, and Mrs. Amanda Chilvers was voted in as Vice Chairperson. The secretary position will be filled at the next School Council meeting.
- Adoption of Previous Minutes – The prior meeting’s minutes were sent out via e-mail. No members had questions about the minutes, and the minutes were accepted. Mrs. Kayleen Pugh asked that the new members receive the minutes from the last meeting also.

Student Services

- Enrollment – Currently AASD has 199 students.
- Student/Family Mobility – 45 students moved either within their local school system or to a new local school system since the start of school. School Council members questioned if the high number of moves were due to the economy.
- Student Attendance – Student attendance is at 94% for the month of September. Mr. Moore explained that AASD has a process in place to track the attendance monthly. Mr. Moore reminded the group that attendance is part of AYP. Tracking attendance will provide the school with useful subgroup data on attendance such as student ethnicity and gender.

Instruction

- SI Plan Update – Mrs. Robisch provided an update on the School Improvement Plan which the School Council approved at the last meeting. She explained that the plan has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) for approval. Mrs. Robisch also explained that AASD is working on the school's first 45-60 day action plan that was prescribed by the GaDOE School Improvement Division.
- SES/Parent Workshops - Title I – Mr. Moore shared data on the number of students that are attending Saturday tutoring sessions. He also shared data on the number of parents, siblings, and staff present on those days. During Saturday tutoring sessions from 10 am -2 pm, parents and siblings are in workshops that focus on a variety of topics such as sign language skills, communication, deaf culture, and more. Mr. Moore asked the group to approve the current year's Title I and ARRA (stimulus money) budgets. The group unanimously approved both budgets.
- Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Robisch announced that AASD's Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Dara Duggan, PreK teacher. Mrs. Duggan will now go on to compete with the other two State Schools' Teachers of the Year to determine who will represent the State Schools at the state-wide level.
- Teacher Attendance – Mrs. Robisch shared that teacher attendance is at 90%. Mrs. Robisch explained that there are special factors that need to be considered when looking at the percentage such as one teacher on maternity leave or teachers that are absent because of chronic reasons.
- Behavior Management – Mrs. Robisch explained that AASD has a behavior management reporting system in place. The data collected through the system is being analyzed on a regular basis for this school year. The data is reflecting that most behavior disruptions are occurring on Mondays and Wednesdays. Mrs. Robisch added that a Behavior Committee has been implemented that will review the data and look at ways to incorporate Positive Behavior Support to students and training to teachers.
- Assessment Overview – Mrs. Amanda Chilvers provided an overview of last year's state assessment including GKIDS, CRCT, and GHSGT and any retest information. In many areas, AASD students may not be making AYP based upon the state's minimum bar score requirements, but students are showing positive assessment performance growth.

Budget

- FY 10 Budget - This item was not discussed due to time constraints, but a budget tracking document is attached to the minutes. The document reflects what AASD's line item allocations are, what has been spent thus far, and what amounts are remaining. Percentages are also included in the document.
- Approval of Title I Budget – The Title I budget received approval during the discussion on instruction.
- Security Camera System – This item was not covered due to time constraints. The consensus of the AASD Management Team is that AASD needs to install security cameras in the school. The main areas to be covered are the hallways, cafeteria, and gym. Many schools now have such systems. AASD is in the process of determining which system would work best at AASD and how many cameras are needed.

Personnel

- Staffing – Mrs. Robisch shared that AASD is almost fully staffed with teachers. One teacher submitted her resignation recently, but a replacement will be hired soon.

Other Items

- Student Council Concerns – Student Council representatives shared their concerns about the quality and quantity of cafeteria food provided to students. The representatives stated that they have created a survey that will inform school officials about what foods students like or dislike. Everyone present agreed that food that appears spoiled or undercooked is not acceptable. School administration should be informed immediately if students receive food that is unacceptable. School administration will speak with cafeteria staff about the students' concerns.
- H1N1 - This item was not discussed due to time constraints. There have been reported instances of AASD students or employees having H1N1.
- Smarter Than a Fifth Grader Money - This item was not discussed due to time constraints. There are no updates since the last meeting.
- Dr. Cynthia Ashby, LMS Review - This item was not discussed due to time constraints. Dr. Ashby has reviewed a set of policies that have been given to GaDOE for review. The policy revisions primarily focus on aligning existing policies to reflect the Local Management of Schools model. The changes include mainly verbiage changes since the Office of State Schools does not exist any longer and there is no Director of State Schools. The new policies provide clearer language that the local school has more autonomy in decision making regarding personnel and budget.
- Sports Program Update - This item was not discussed due to time constraints. The sports program is progressing smoothly. Mr. Reggie Bess and the coaches are doing an excellent job coordinating and expanding the athletic opportunities provided at AASD. AASD was able to hire a bus driver that will transport students to all games.
- After School Program Update - This item was not discussed due to time constraints. Mrs. Nneka Alston is spearheading numerous before and after school activities for students which have received favorable feedback from both students and parents.
- Uniforms – This item was addressed during the visitors discussion earlier in the meeting.

Next Meeting Date

December 10, 2009, 6 – 7 pm