Hephzibah Middle School

School Council

Minutes

August 17, 2016

2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Dr. Henry, Principal, Debbie Jarriel, Parent, Arlene Davis, Teacher, Ingrid Stokes, Instructional Coach, Lisa Byrd, Intern Asst. Principal, Kamona Cham, Athletic Director, Gina Knight, Parent, Jennifer Armstrong, Augusta State, Octavia Randolph, Parent Facilitator

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Henry at 2:35. Two handouts was given to each participant; the schedule for the 6th, 7th and 8th graders and a sheet of Title I and PTO events. It was stated by Dr. Henry that in the 20 years of teaching at HMS, the schedule had never changed. Since HMS has put in its application to become an IB school, the schedules had to change. The schedule has been changed to include 8 periods that has to include a foreign language. The teachers now have 2 planning periods, one for administrative planning which means the team comes together and one for instructional.

One of the biggest problems at the schools is attendance. Dr. Henry has instructed teachers to make a personal phone call to the home of an absent student. This is another way for HMS to reach out to parents.

The Title I and PTO events were discussed. We need more participation and attendance from parents. The numbers from last year events were looked at and we are looking to add 3 to 5% more participation per event from parents. This means reaching out further to the parents to come to the school.

Becoming an IB school comes with responsibilities. HMS needs to focus on what is a good way to present this to parents. One way discussed was via website. We plan on naming a section on the website, school activities. This is a way the parents can see what is going on at the school.

Ms. Byrd did a power point presentation about the IB MYP (International Baccalaureate) (Middle Years Program)– candidacy school. Hephzibah Middle and Hephzibah High will be combined in the effort of becoming an effective IB school. MYP consists of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade and for the first year, Hephzibah High will include 9th grade. Next year the 10th grade will be included. MYP ages are between 11 and 16 years of age. There are 1149 school in 101 countries that have IB. The framework of IB challenges the students. In order to meet the guidelines of an effective IB school, we must add more foreign language teachers and an art teacher. The timeline for the IB application and the structural framework to put everything in place is 2 to 3 years. We are striving to complete the application in 2 years. We will have professional learning seminars for teachers to introduce the students to the program and we must educate parents and communicate more to them regarding the IB-MYP.

On September 24th, a professional learning day will be held for teachers giving them an overview about the MYP (Middle Years Program). There are several profiles that are part of the program that students must have in place. October 7th and 8th, the district professional learning days will be held for IB schools.

It was also announced that on September 24th, a school council training will be held in the RCBOE building.

Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Octavia Randolph, Parent Facilitator