

Blythe Elementary School

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Title I School Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members: Mary Abbott, Sarita Berry, Barbara Feldman, Tammy Hendley, Sandra Jones, Shantel Kinzer, Jessica Lewis, Hope Thomas, and Angela Rhea,

Proceedings:

Mrs. Hendley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with a welcome and introduction of the attendees. Shortly following the introduction, Mrs. Hendley explained the general purpose of the school council and then asked that we elect officers to support the compliance of all meeting guidelines. Mrs. Hendley explained to the group the duties, requirements, and responsibilities of each position and asked for volunteers.

The officials for Blythe's 2020-2021 School Council are as follows: Chair Person – Mrs. Mary Abbott; Vice Chair – Mrs. Angela Rhea; and Secretary – Ms. Jessica Lewis. Mrs. Hendley led this initial meeting and informed the council about the remaining meeting and time for this school year. Mrs. Hendley will serve as a backup chair to support the Chair Person.

Concerning the School Profile: A study of the progress of our students doing online learning revealed that many of the students could not keep up with this new way of learning. Students with multiple online absences were asked to return to face-to-face learning. These students were placed in the RtI process and received a letter outlining how beneficial it will be for them to return face-to-face.

Approximately 40 of Blythe's students will be returning to face-to-face instruction. McBean and Hephzibah Elementary Schools have a similar number of students returning from virtual instruction. This influx caused the principals of Blythe, Hephzibah and McBean to seek a new way to provide quality instruction.

Beginning in January 2021, Blythe will share online enrollment with Hephzibah and McBean-similar to the itinerant teacher method. These three schools are collaborating to insure that students can still stay at their school. The collaborative is organized as follows: McBean is responsible for teaching all of the online kindergarten and 4th graders; Hephzibah will teach the 1st and 5th graders; and Blythe will be teaching all of the online 2nd and 3rd graders. Face-to-face classes at Blythe will continue to be self-contained with the exception of the 4th and 5th grades.

Mrs. Hendley updated the Council concerning the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the school. In November, Blythe's students were in school for approximately 3 days, and recently, 91 students and employees were quarantined. Overall this year, Blythe has been closed 3 separate times, and as of December 18th, some students have missed over 9 non-consecutive weeks of school.

As the school's data was discussed with the Council, there was evidence of the negative effects of the coronavirus due to school closure. At the middle of the year in Math in March 2020, 51% of the students were on grade level, 43% of the students were not on grade level, and 6% of the students needed intensive help. At the beginning of the year in September 2020, 25% of the students were on grade level, 48% of the students were not on grade level, and 27% of the students needed intensive help. In Reading in March 2020, 40% of the students were on grade level, 50% were one grade level behind, and 10% two or more grade levels behind. In September 2020, 12% of the students were on grade level, 57% one grade level behind, and 31% two or more grade levels behind.

As we continue to monitor our students' progress, there is a definite need to intensify the protection of the instructional blocks and a definite need for some students to return to face-to-face instruction. Many students are coming back in January, and 50% of these students were asked to return due to nonparticipation. When the students return, they will be administered the Middle of the Year i-Ready Diagnostic so that we may adequately assess their current instructional needs. The data will be utilized to help guide instruction.

Concerning the Title I budget: Approximately \$58,000 was used to purchase manipulatives, a promethean board, a computer for the parent center, and iPads and charging stations for teacher and student use.

Mrs. Feldman updated the Council on the status of the Storyland Theater. She stated that their Facebook page is available to us. The students are able to watch Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk via a link on the Facebook page (@StorylandGA) and on the web page (www.storylandtheatre.org). Everyone will be able to see it free at any time. A new online video musical, "Humphrey Clinker Gets His Wish" is also available.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. and the next meeting date is March 4th.

Blythe Elementary School Council Meeting

December 14, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introduction of School Council Members
- III. Election of Officers
- IV. Officers Duties, Role of Local School Board, Bylaws, FERPA, etc.
- V. School Profile Information
- VI. Meeting Dates and Times for Remainder of 2020-2021 School Year
- VII. School Improvement Plan
- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. Adjournment