**Norton Elementary School**

**S.A.C. Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

Meeting started at 6:02 p.m.

**Members Present by Zoom Meeting:** Elena Mayo, Tristin Ballentine, Cory Goeltzenleuchter, Kathrine Faenza, Stephanie Baldwin, Joel Romelus, Lakeshia Young, Tesi Jester, and Jeff Tice

**Members not in Attendance:**  Nicole DeHart and Tonya Nunn

**Non-SAC Member Present:** Annie Harris

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the September 15th meeting were previously shared by email; A motion to approve the minutes was made by K. Faenza and seconded by C. Goeltzenleuchter. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Adoption of Agenda:** A motion for adoption the agenda with addition of ADV Funds (Mayo) was made by T. Jester and seconded by T. Ballentine. Agenda was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Student Health and Safety**

* 4.5 positive employee COVID cases to date - .5 employee is shared with another school
* 2 positive student COVID cases to date
* Have not had any spread on campus
* Today’s cases have will not be on campus for a while following district protocol and quarantine; coming out of holidays
* Norton is following district protocol for cleaning
* Norton’s nurse, Alix, is doing a phenomenal job reaching out to everyone; would be lost without her

**News Items:**

The current plan is to continue with Digital Academy in the spring. Provisions will be made for students that are not successful/proficient. Not sure what “successful” means at this time. Tests are not giving an accurate representation of who needs help and this is problematic. Teachers, students, and families have risen to the challenge as a lot of students do not have the expertise in computer usage.

J. Tice asked if there is a plan for testing and getting school grades.

* Yes, at this point we are. It was mentioned that currently the state of Georgia is fighting Federal legislation on this.
* We need some assessment to know where students are. Fourth graders would be going on their second year without data assessments and would be held blameless to know how to grow.
* People not on campus would need to come on campus to test. High stakes grades, like 3rd, could create more pressure to have to come on campus after not being here.
* **Norton Facilities**
  + New playground equipment for Pre-K and Kindergarten has been delivered
  + Harris met with and helped with layout
  + Should go up over winter break
* **Staff Turnaround**

It’s been a tough year

* + A teacher leaving – starting new family
  + Another teacher wants a different position – will fill the open Title I position
  + Looking for one more position
* **Title I Services Update**
  + Adding Title I half time position filling with students that are not in the bubble
  + Implemented and working with lots of programs like: Orton-Gillingham, SIPS, Achieve 3000
  + Looking for specific areas where students need help
* **Student Data**

Math scores – the first set was frightening but the second showed significant gains. Teachers are working hard and students are adjusting to being back in school.

Faenza – Digital Academy (DA)

Teachers and students are working on building the best way for students to learn.

Most students did nothing for 3 months so the adjustment period to B&M (brick and mortar) has been difficult. Students are just getting back into the flow. DA students are getting used to the same rules as being in the B&M class. Parents are really involved and learning the schedule. It has been a great eye-opener. Help at home is better and is helping a lot.

What students are capable of doing now versus six months ago is impressive (Digital Academy and Hyflex).

Norton’s current data shows 59% of students as being low income but since the district has done away with the free and reduced lunch forms it is harder to capture the exact percentage. The 59% does not truly capture what we see.

**ADV Funds**: The school can spend these funds without getting approval from SAC but must let the committee know what the funds were used for

* Reading Endorsement for teachers – all teachers must get their Reading Endorsements Tiers 2 & 3
  + Tier 1 – all students
  + Tier 2 – students need some help; this data is based on I-Station testing
  + Tier 3 – small percentage of students identified or in process of being identified as “in need”

Mayo and Harris are going through the same training and tests as the teachers; Ballentine is teaching the classes

* A teacher is consulting with EDEP, the afterschool program, to make arrangements for a special-needs student
* Shred-It billing, school shredding services, was changed from LOT to ADV

Ballentine -- Shout-out to Mayo and Harris for the Calendar of Holidays (events); it has really helped and boosted morale

J. Romelus inquired about impact and trauma COVID has had in the community and how it has affected the students, asking about resources available to Norton’s students. Mrs. Mayo explained there is a social/emotional rating scale that ranges from moderate to high and grouped by needs. This is coordinated by the school’s counselors who are going into the classrooms as well as pulling small groups. The BRT (Behavioral Resource Teacher) also tracks data. The school’s social worker is following up with families and the counselors are also working with outside resources and making recommendations. Teachers identify students and make recommendations and some parents communicate needs as well.

Every classroom teacher has morning and afternoon meetings where they talk to their class about how to work through things as a group.

**Community Input**: None

The next meeting date is March 16th at 6:00 p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting:** A motion for adjourn was made by J. Romelus and seconded by T. Ballentine. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.