

Meeting Minutes

Springdale Park Elementary

Date: 10/21/2020

Time: 6:30-7:30

Location: **Zoom Video Conferencing Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83933143293?pwd=ZHM5YXVTSzUvakhxajZ5bzAwTjZ2dz09>

- I. Call to order:
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Terry Harness	Present
Parent/Guardian	Jenny Reiner	Present
Parent/Guardian	Honora Handley	Present
Parent/Guardian	Cat Hoelker	Present
Instructional Staff	Jessica Correa	Present
Instructional Staff	Nathan Stephenson	Present
Instructional Staff	Corrie Madlem	Present
Community Member	Brian Knight	Present
Community Member	Elise Blalock	Present
Swing Seat	Tony Kearney	Present
Student (High Schools)		

Guests: Scott Newman, Shaili Asher, Diane Jacobi

Quorum Established: [Yes]

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: [Corrie Madlem]; Seconded by: Brian Knight, D.C.
Members Approving: All Members
Members Opposing: None
Members Abstaining: None
Motion [Passes]
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** *List amendments to the minutes: None*
Motion made by: Brian Knight, D.C.; Seconded by: Elise Blalock
Members Approving: All Members

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Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion [Passes]

c. **Approval of GO Team Meeting Calendar**

The team changed the January 20 date to January 27th.

Motion made by: Elise Blalock; Seconded by: Brian Knight, D.C.

Members Approving: All Members

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion [Passes]

d. **Cluster Representative Appointment**

Nominee: Cat Hoelker

Motion Made by: Elise Blalock, Seconded By: Brian Knight

Members Approving: All Members

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

IV. Discussion Items

a. **Discussion Item 1: Budget Update**

Mr. Harness gave the team an update on SPARK's budget. SPARK had roughly \$1,000 cut from the budget. Mr. Harness did not hire for several paraprofessional positions, cafeteria monitors, and a one day per week PE teacher. This saved Springdale Park roughly \$70,000. This will allow the school to add this money to the operating budget. Mr. Harness also indicated that the district has given schools more flexibility for purchasing PPE, and additional school items: desks, plexiglass barriers, and potentially new technology.

Q: Would we need to hire these people if we returned F2F?

A: Mr. Harness: No, because of how SPARK has adapted the specials schedule.

Q: Did first graders get new devices as a part of the Tablet2READ program?

A: Mr. Harness: No, we have not received these devices yet. We're not sure when we will be receiving these devices. We would consider the balance of iPads and Chromebooks. We would also consider purchasing monitors for teachers and a technology called Swivel which would help facilitate teaching virtually.

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PTO has already raised \$83,000. We're very proud of this number considering COVID. We are also considering a fundraiser related to celebrating kindness in place of the FunRun. This fundraiser organizer would take less of the total funds raised.

Q: Has the district changed their position regarding PPE and equity.

A: Mr. Harness No. The district is distributing PPE in an equitable manner, but they are allowing schools more flexibility in what they're purchasing.

b. Discussion Item 2: Technology Strategy

Mr. Harness said SPARK is still waiting to understand what the district will be providing. However, Mr. Harness indicated we may not receive our devices as soon as some other schools. Based on what we receive from the district, this would help drive what technology we would purchase as a school.

Honora Handley suggested we also consider the need to possibly replace/repair many devices, as she's heard many of the devices are having difficulties including holding a charge, etc. She also asked whether we had considered any enhancements to things we can send home now that we understand we're continuing virtually.

Jessica Correa: 5th Grade had this conversation today about possibly sending home more learning kits for this next unit. Our kits were only prepared for the 9 weeks but noted this was an ongoing conversation. She also noted that the team was researching potential digital field trips.

Mr. Harness acknowledged all of these concerns and said we are actively thinking about all of these needs around technology. Specifically, the school has also thought about what we might need students to have at home as we continue virtually. He also discussed the need to think about making sure that we're boosting morale for students, families, and staff.

Next, he shared that he was considering a Book Character parade through the community. We are hoping to try to be creative and create opportunities to help boost morale. We just need to think about we go about these ideas, but I think we would rely on room parents to help.

c. Discussion Item 3: Reopening and Crowding

Honora raised the conversation about the process for Inman Middle School. She understood surveys were taken, but all of this information stopped with COVID. However, she expressed the need for this to continue to be discussed, as

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overcrowding will be potentially become an issue again when we return in person. The Board hasn't discussed this further.

Diane Jacobi mentioned this may be a topic of discussion for the Cluster Advisory Meetings.

Mr. Harness said the GRADY principals want this to continue to be discussed.

Q: How many students have left SPARK? 98/160 Kindergarten, 15 kids 1st grade, 15 kids, 2nd grade, 3-5 roughly stayed the same. For 1st & 2nd Grade many of the students indicated on their withdraw statements indicated they were enrolling in private schools.

d. **Discussion Item 4: Parent Survey Results**

90% of SPARK families completed their survey. 60% chose virtual, the other 40% chose F2F. 63/36. 250+ kids in the building.

The biggest tasks was trying to piece it all together: connecting teachers with students. Mr. Harness noted that we had many teachers request telework, roughly 44%. We would needed teachers to move grade levels, and many duties & responsibilities would have changed. The district was going to provide substitutes for schools with high levels of teachers who were going to be virtual.

He noted that it was going to be very difficult. It's probably all going to change as we move forward in January. We're not sure if there is going to be another round of intent to return f2f.

Q: Families feel the weekly login rate seems inflated, is there any way to provide daily login rates. What does the weekly login rate really mean?

A: Mr. Harness: At SPARK, we have over 90% daily login rate, but what varies is how long are students actually logged in and engaged. We're being very strategic and trying to reach out to families to let them know that we're aware of student participation. We're reaching out about students who are not actively participating.

Comment: The communication from the district could have been more timely and clearer. Dr. Herring could do a better job of trying to reach out and connect better with the community. This may be a time for the district to improve their image.

Q: Is there any way for us to prepare for January?

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A: Not really, because there continue to be so many unknowns.

Q: If there is another survey of parents, I hope we get more time.

Q: Will teachers be asked again?

A: Mr. Harness: Yes, I would imagine so, but I honestly don't know.

Comment: I wish there was an option to stay with my teacher, I would have chosen that option. Many parents echoed this thought.

V. Public Comment:

-Scott Newman, thought the GOTeam should always consider having a public comment for every meeting. Also, he shared that it would be interesting and beneficial for the community to see data detailing how students' are performing virtually vs in person. For example, sharing STAR Reading from in person to virtual learning, and perhaps comparing scores to look for growth in the virtual setting.

VI. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Elise Blalock Seconded by: Corrie Madlem

Members Approving: All Members in Favor

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining:

Motion [Passes]

ADJOURNED AT 7:40

Minutes Taken By: Nathan Stephenson

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: 11.18.20