

**Grahamwood School Leadership Council**  
**Minutes from October 2, 2008 Meeting**  
**6:00pm at Grahamwood**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Attendance: Swati Salian (Parent), Sarah Lewis (Parent), Ms Denson (Staff), Ms Thompson (Teacher), Ms Williams (Staff), Mr. Johnson (Principal), Ms DJ Miles, (Vice Principal), Mr. Miles (Community), Ben Scott (Parent & Community), Ms Beth Ferreira (Teacher), Patricia Gatlin (Parent), Ms Gladney (Teacher/MEA Rep), Mr. Krishnan (Parent)
- We approved the minutes from the last meeting. We discussed putting the minutes on the school website.

**2. Student Exhibitions**

- Every child in MCS will participate in this process of creating an artifact project.
- The goal is to create a learning environment in which all students will develop and showcase their academic talents and strengths. The administration of MCS wants to expand on the TN standards and go beyond teaching to the test. They want to tap into students strengths.
- The first exhibition will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> (which is also GES Open House night).
- MCS is looking for 9000 jurors citywide to judge these projects. If you want to become a juror call the number on the brochure or on the MCS website.

**3. New Leadership Forms**

- We now have a full committee which represents all of the parts of our school: teachers, staff, optional parents, and in-district parents. We are a pretty diverse board.
- We went over the new forms and the responsibilities of the council.
- We do not handle any money, but we will get the budget at the next meeting. We can advise the school on how to spend money.
- Our goals have to be done every year. Ms Williams is working on this now.
- We have 3 focus areas:
  1. Attendance
  2. Academic Achievement
  3. Safety
- The purpose of the Leadership Council is to have site based decision making.
- We need to set a calendar of dates for our meetings as well as sign up for training at the school board. It looks like January 8<sup>th</sup>, might be our best option. Sarah will email the group.

**4. School improvement Plan**

- We went over our 4 goals
  1. GES students will have a  $\geq$ 93% attendance rate.
  2. GES students will have a minimum increase of 10% or 91% of students performing at or above proficiency in Reading Language Arts on TCAP
  3. GES students will have a minimum increase of 10% or 89% of students performing at or above proficiency in Math on TCAP

4. Students in each subgroup will increase proficiency to within 10% of the total school's proficiency in Reading Language Arts and Math on TCAP
- It is crucial for us to know our kids. Each group of students with 45 or more in the group is considered a subgroup.
  - A school can be put on "Target" list if one subgroup does not reach proficiency.

## **5. School Stickers**

- We would like to get bumper stickers and decals that say something like "My student is a Grahamwood Student" or "My child is an honor student at Grahamwood".
- This would fall under Academic Achievement as it would motivate students and foster school pride.
- The MCS board will have to approve any graphics.
- Ms Ferreira will talk to the Purdues about doing a design.
- Ms Thompson suggested this could be a school fundraiser to support the school.
- We discussed having 2 types: a school on and an award one.
- Swati will talk to Carol Schedalback of GPA about the award ones. (Note: Swati did talk to Carol; she suggested doing a decal instead of a bumper sticker.)

## **6. Building Community Relationships**

- We currently have a relationship with Fedex. They provide buses for field trips among other things, but it would be nice to build some other partnerships within the community. This year more so than ever we need some more financial partnerships.
- Mr. Miles who is our FedEx representative spoke on showing the company the value of the school. We have to tell them "what makes Grahamwood such a special place"...what differentiates Grahamwood and makes it special.
- Mr. Miles will work on this piece of "value" and email Sarah Lewis. Sarah has started to put together a letter.
- Kroger on Summer gave the school \$500
- A partnership is 2 way. We have to present what we can give them (like kids volunteering) and what they can give us. We need to present them with a buffet platter of options on how they can help us: financial, come read to the kids, tutor/mentor the kids, donations...ask them if they have a special way they would want to help..
- We also discussed conducting a survey of families to see what companies they work for and what organizations they are active in. Mr. Krishnan will look into conducting this survey. Possibly using "survey monkey" website.
- If we had this data, we could go to a company and say did you know x% of our students' parents work for your company or belong to your organization.
- Also faith based organizations can become a partner and help increase parent participation at the school.

## **7. Safety Concerns**

- We have not given up. We just have not gotten very far with getting more safety lights around the school.
- Mr. Johnson did call and the next day there was a police saturation giving out tickets.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 10th at 5:30pm at Grahamwood. Sarah Lewis will be in charge of reminding all of the meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned.

**Grahamwood Elementary School  
School Leadership Council  
2008-2009**

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