**Wards Creek Elementary**

**SAC Meeting Minutes-August 24th, 2015**

**Attendance:**

Attendees are attached on a separate list.

**Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Wards Creek Elementary School Advisory Council was held in the Wards Creek Elementary Media Center on August 24th, 2015. Lisa Bielefeldt called the meeting to order. Heather Clubb recorded minutes for this meeting.

**Minutes:**

No minutes to approve at this meeting.

**Introductions:**

Lisa Bielefeldt and Mrs. Farrell had SAC members introduce themselves and explain their occupations and how they are connected with the school.

**SAC Funds Disbursement:**

Ms. Bielefeldt reviewed voting procedures for SAC. The state of Florida allotted $3.50 per student at WCES. This money must be used to enhance the School Improvement Plan and the money must be allocated either by teacher or by grade level or department. Four grade levels are looking to use funds to purchase access to the STAR reading assessment. Due to the time sensitive nature of this need, two representatives from those grade levels gave an overview of the STAR program. Dana Smith (Second Grade) explained the impact that this program would have on their instruction. STAR assesses where students are at in terms of reading level, can be administered within the classrooms, and takes a relatively short amount of time. Reports are generated for the teachers from this assessment, including the ZPD range or student reading level range for each student which can be applied to book check out in the media center. The grade levels looking to purchase the program include-First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade, and Fourth Grade.

**Questions from the Group:**

* When are you allowed to administer STAR compared to DE? DE is driven by a testing window created by the district. STAR is not.
* What happens when the data conflicts? DE and STAR offer different looks into the student as a reader. DE is more standards-based, while STAR is more about Lexile level and readability.
* Why are fifth grade and kindergarten not requesting it? Fifth grade and Kindergarten are choosing to spend the SAC funds differently. Fifth grade is focusing on giving students real-world strategies for selecting books as they head to middle school without relying on the color-coded AR system.
* Why did we not have STAR last year? Due to the loss of the church that rented the building we have had to divert funds elsewhere.
* Can SAC fundraise? Not sure. Will look into it, but doubtful due to the permissions needed by organizations like PTO in order to fundraise.

Teresa Lloyd motioned to approve the funding for first through fourth grades, Dana Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Principal’s Report:**

Last year we ended with 937 kids, this year we started 888. This is very different than originally expected. Due to the projected numbers, we generated a ninth related arts position. Mrs. Fuata is teaching Health/Related Arts for that position. We are currently “overstaffed” which will hopefully be remedied by 23 students registering at our school.

**New Teacher Introductions:** Mrs. Thompson, a fourth grade teacher, is helping her son transition into college. This generated a new fourth grade position that is being filled by a teacher who will start after Labor Day. Mrs. Thoresen has done a wonderful job as the long-term substitute. We have also hired a new second grade teacher, Jill Camm, who started today. We are currently on the verge of tipping in third grade. The current associate teacher, Kristen Jacobs, will take over that additional third grade class if it does tip.

**Buses:** We have been transitioning into a new, district created system. Thank you for your patience in regards to this process. Call Tammy Stewart if you still have an issue.

**District Level:** A video from Dr. Joyner about the new district approach to testing will be shown at Curriculum Chats. In addition to that, we will have a district representative come to SAC to educate us about the sales tax initiative due to be voted on in November.

**Cultural Festival:** We will be having it, however, it will be postponed until later in the year. We want it to be a great event and that will take more time to pull off!

**Adjournment**:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dana Smith. Elizabeth Janssen seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Next SAC meeting will be September 14th at 6:00pm.