**Wards Creek School Advisory Council**

**April 11th, 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

**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 April 11th, 2016. Staci Farrell called the meeting to order. Heather Clubb recorded minutes for this meeting.

**Minutes:**

The Minutes from last month’s meeting were reviewed. The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Charlotte Hartley and Tammy Stewart seconded the motion.

**Superintendent Search Update**

Our School Board Representative, Tommy Allen, came by to update us on the search process for our new superintendent. Mr. Allen outlined the enormous task of replacing Dr. Joyner and how important it is for us to clarify our expectations for the next leader of our district. Mr. Allen posed the following questions to group for our reflection- “What would we like to see for our future? What changes would we like to see? What characteristics would we like in our next leader?” He also mentioned the opportunity to serve on the actual search committee. He encouraged every person present to offer input in order to achieve a positive outcome for this process.

Mr. Allen also offered a post-vote update on the half-cent sales tax referendum. The money being collected stays here in the county and we are now able to use that money towards building new schools and towards school safety, etc.

**Vote to approve SRF distribution:**

School faculty voted on March 31st based on the ballot approved at our last meeting. A simple majority vote was achieved on option 2, which will divide the funds equally amongst all employment categories. Ms. Bielefeldt opened the floor for discussion, but there was none. Dana Smith made a motion to approve the vote and Tammy Stewart seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Principal’s Report:**

More information about the superintendent search can be found in Mrs. Jarrell’s Journal article in this month’s edition of the Torch (school newsletter). (Mrs. Maxham brought paper versions of the application for interested members of the group.) Also within Mrs. Jarrell’s article for this month is a link to the student profile page where parents can provide input about their child’s placement for next year. The link to the student profile page will be on the website as well.

Volunteer Banquet was held last Thursday night. Megan Bastow, Ricke Ricardelli, Wanda Nelson, and Jack Shepherd were all celebrated. At the same banquet, the 14-15 5-Star Awards were announced. WCES had over 18,000 volunteer hours last year, which is more than double what we needed for the award. Mrs. Jarrell would like to do more to promote “youth volunteerism” at WCES, as we did not have a youth volunteer of the year this year.

On a state level, there has been a lot of talk about zone waivers. The district is very adamant about not filling a seat in a St. Johns County school with a child that does not live here. The district is in the process of developing a system for how to deal with students from other counties wanting to come to school here. More information will be forthcoming on current legislation.

There was a question for Mrs. Jarrell about recess during testing. She explained that we have been fortunate that after 11:30 am every day we have been able to lift the testing restrictions. Teachers are prepared for indoor recess activities (movement), if the restrictions remain in place.

Mrs. Lasswell brought up recent social media discussions in 5th grade. She expressed concern that kids were told having social media was okay, when some families choose to abstain and having specific accounts require the age of 13. Mrs. Jarrell gave context to conversation that occurred and answered all questions.

**PTO Report:**

* Glow Run was a success. The final numbers are not in, but each school will get between $2000 and $3000 per school.
* New officers will be in place before
* Spring Festival is Friday. We need volunteers! (Mrs. Barzaga mentioned inviting ROTC students and Mrs Janssen mentioned 8th grade Web Leaders as well.)
* School supply order kits will be ready for ordering soon. A question was posed about “leftover” supplies and teachers spoke to the reasons why that may occur.
* Teacher appreciation will be the week of May 2nd.
* McDonald’s Night will now be 4/26.

**Good of the Group:**

* A compliment was given from Chamane Williams about the Leonard’s Spring Photos. Awesome!
* Needs Assessment Survey has closed. Results have not yet been reviewed. Data will reviewed in order to help create the School Improvement Plan presented to the group at the beginning of the 16-17.
* Thursday, May 12th at 6 pm will be the end-of-the-year social event for SAC.
* SAC Survey closes the first week of May, as well.
* Ms. Bielefeldt will be stepping down as the SAC chair. Ms. Clubb will be stepping in as the SAC Chair for next year.

**Adjournment**:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dana Smith and Tammy Stewart seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm. Next SAC meeting will be May 12th, 2016 at 6:00pm.