

Alice Drive Elementary School School Improvement Council
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2018

In attendance: Suzanna Foley, Katherine Spigner, Tanya Quiroz, Cheri Tisdale, Amy Chua, Helen Simon, Cathy Wood, Brittni Buitureira, Tina Sorrells, Shauntae Bines, David Merchant

- The meeting began at 3:06 p.m with a welcome from Mrs. Foley. Attendees introduced themselves.
- Mrs. Foley explained that all districts in the state received their school report cards last week. She stated that Alice Drive Elementary had the highest score of all the elementary schools in the district. One of the things that led to our high score was that we were able to close our achievement gap among African American students, particularly in math. Mrs. Foley praised teachers for gearing instruction towards students' individual needs and grouping students based on instructional levels in order to increase achievement. An area that we need to work on improving is writing. In previous years, ADE always scored well in this area, but our score has decreased since the new SC READY TDA response has become the measure. Mrs. Foley explained that teachers are having to change their way of teaching in order to prepare students for this type of writing response. All teachers are working towards earning a reading endorsement, which is required by the new Read to Succeed law. We aim to continuously increase our reading scores. We use Title I money to fund our two Reading Interventionists, and we are seeing exceptional benefits from the implementation of interventions.
- New things we have going on this year include our STEM Lab with Mrs. Kristi Waldron. The focus for the first semester was to get students used to working together to build something in this setting. Mrs. Foley gave a brief description of the recent roller coaster team-building project that was completed by students in the STEM lab. Next year, we will be going through the third year of STEM accreditation, and we have worked diligently to prepare for this part of the process.
- Mrs. Foley opened the floor for discussion about possible ideas for partnerships between ADE and CCTC. Mrs. Foley mentioned that we already have a working relationship in the form of the mentor program, and Mrs. Simon gave a brief overview of the program.
- Mrs. Wood suggested an incentive for teachers on behalf of CCTC as a reward for a "Job Well Done" and also ideas for collaborative projects in the STEM lab, guest speakers from CCTC, and field trips for students to visit CCTC.
- Mrs. Quiroz added that the new Biology Club at CCTC has a requirement for its students to volunteer 3 hours per semester. Mrs. Spigner mentioned that we could use several volunteers for STEM Night in January. Mrs. Quiroz suggested making paper at this event. Other members added that 3D printing and circuit kits would be great additions.
- Mrs. Foley commented that 3D printers are on our wish list for our school, and Mrs. Wood mentioned that CCTC may be able to help with that in terms of donations. Mr. Merchant then asked if there was a capital need in addition to the volunteer need. He suggested making a wish list for items that could be donated. Mrs. Foley will mention to grade levels and have teachers compile a wish list.
- Mrs. Quiroz discussed her desire to help teachers with their needs, but the Biology Club is very new and does not have finances to help with the capital need. However, these CCTC students would be able to help teachers with other needs (i.e. cutting things out, etc). She suggested that Mrs. Foley mention this to grade levels and also formulate a needs list for teacher assistance.

- Mrs. Sorrells explained that her intervention students are supposed to be reading with an adult at home every night, but many of her students don't have anyone to read with. If any of the CCTC students would be willing and able to spend time with these students listening to them read, it would make a big difference.
- Mrs. Foley summarized that she would have the teachers formulate a needs list, and we will reconvene in February to try to match needs and resources.
- Mrs. Foley explained that the focus of our January meeting will be MAP growth. She invited all guests to attend this meeting and thanked all attendees for taking the time to attend and for being willing to partner with ADE.
- The meeting ended at 3:47 p.m.

Next meeting January 14, 2019.