

Monarch Elementary School

2224 Five Forks Road

Simpsonville, South Carolina 29681

School Improvement Council Meeting Minutes

September 18 @ 12:00 p.m.

In-Person ~ Attendees: Brian Godfrey, Allison Berg, Sarah Dulin, Jami Christian, Mark Loach, Lauren Tooley, Mimi Williams, Kaylin Laskowski, Natalie Bostic, Lauren Couchois, Leasa Dacus

1. Welcome and Call to Order

2. Introductions

3. School News

a. Principal's Report:

- i. Mr. Loach discussed sign needed for arriving tardy and signing into the front office.
 - 1. The sign could be put out and then Ms. Christian would not have to turn people around in back carline.
 - 2. Mrs. Berg discussed some ideas about having a sign with positive note on one sign and then could turn around say to sign into front office.

b. Academics/Instructional/Interventions:

- i. Mrs. Dacus discussed about upcoming tests.
 - 1. MAP testing 1st grade just finished
 - 2. Benchmark testing for 2nd – 5th grade: 10/9-10/10
 - a. Give a good baseline to teacher and data point
- ii. Mrs. Bostic & Ms. Christian discussed
 - 1. CogAT/Iowa testing 10/17-10/20
 - a. Testing for 2nd graders for the gifted & talented program

c. Other Discussion items:

- i. Mrs. Tooley discussed that there are no parking spots when Mrs. Hodnett & Ms. Oaks' classes dismiss in the front parking lot every afternoon. There needs to be at least 6 open parking spots plus the 3 handicap spots available during pick up time 2:05-2:20 pm.
 - 1. Mr. Loach suggested to ask teachers & EDP staff to park in different spots in the afternoon. Please send an email or some kind of notification out to them.

- ii. PTA
 - 1. Curriculum Night – 9/19/2023
 - a. PTA meeting 10-15 minutes
 - b. Refreshment & Food available
 - 2. Boosterthon – 9/29/23
 - a. Mrs. Berg working on t-shirts
 - b. Kick off this week
 - c. Mrs. Williams discussed it will be run differently this year. They only took the lower level where Boosterthon gets 15% for using their videos & website. This is very volunteer oriented and still needs lots of help with it.
 - 3. Playground & Front structure updates:
 - a. Mrs. Williams spoke with Brian Hawkins (Facilities Project Manager) at Greenville County schools.
 - i. Only 1 bidder – USA Play
 - 1. Quote \$50,864.17 – Includes Shade for ADA playground, BOGO drums & another piece of equipment plus front play structure
 - a. PTA pay 75% - \$38,148.75
 - b. School district approved matching funds & pay 25% - \$12,715.42
 - 4. Outdoor Garden & learning space
 - a. 300 plants to put in ground
 - b. Need volunteer for auger to dig & tiller
 - c. Raised for wheelchair accessible
 - d. Zen garden for counselor & teachers
 - e. Mrs. Couchois discussed
 - i. Kindergarten – 5th hands on learning
 - ii. Plants for Summer/Fall rotation to be put in
 - iii. Cafeteria will use harvest & nutrition lessons
 - iv. Rakes available to use in the garden
 - v. 2 outdoor classroom areas
 - vi. There will be plants for Spring rotation also
 - vii. Upkeep by the students, teachers, parents & Mrs. Couchois
 - f. Mrs. Williams
 - i. Aluminum fence will be installed around Garden
 - 1. WYFF 4, New Channel 7, Greenville Journal will be there for the ribbon cutting ceremony
 - 2. PTA will put out communication for work days
 - 5. Diversity Committee
 - a. Ms. Dulin discussed that priority to buy local & in the community
 - 6. Improve school/ideas:
 - a. Mr. Godfrey discussed require business partners needed. Need a virtual link so they can attend.

7. Best Buddies Program – Mr. Loach discussed
 - a. Grant funded since 1989
 - b. Stipend to host events
 - c. Start with 5th graders to work with Mrs. Hodnett & Ms. Oak's classes
4. Adjourn
 - a. 12:45 pm

Future Meeting Dates:

- October 23 at 9am

Meeting Notes:

Included under each section