



FGCS Board of Directors
January 22, 2024 Meeting
Minutes

Board Members Present

Robbie Pock, Chair
Mackenzie Carey, Vice Chair
Maria Aguilar, Secretary
Keri Johnson, Member
Marissa Salgado, Member
Morgan Knapp, Treasurer

Staff Members Present

Vanessa Gray, Principal
Karen Torry, Director of Operations

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Discussion Items

Voting Items

- November Meeting Minutes: Approved unanimously by acclamation.
- Literacy Grant Application: Vanessa reported that this state grant is intended to help schools improve early literacy instruction. This is the first biennium the grant is available as a 'jump start' grant, with the process and requirements expected to change over time. Vanessa shared a document detailing FGCS's grant application and shared data collected to date that reflects FGCS students meeting/exceeding grade level reading expectations based on teacher assessments as well as standardized testing.
 - The grant authorizes spending in four ways: professional development, 'high dosage' tutoring, extended day/year programs, and student growth assessment.
 - The grant requires schools to communicate with stakeholders about the grant and explain how they will do so and to provide matching funds, which FGCS will accomplish through wages paid to instructional assistants, who already do 'high dosage' tutoring through intervention groups.

- Morgan asked why FGCS is using a literacy curriculum that is not on the current ODE list of approved curricula. Vanessa explained that ODE requires schools to adopt an approved curriculum or explain why it uses the curriculum it does. Vanessa explained that FGCS developed a curriculum to be more responsive to differentiation that includes literacy 'flooding' through a 90-minute block that includes small group instruction targeted to students' skills, with the most skilled instructors (classroom teachers) working with students who needed the greatest support; additional phonics/phonemic awareness groups for students who need this; word work and spelling for all. Through the grant, Vanessa would like to enhance instruction for students who struggle to make progress and may have a learning disability such as dyslexia but who do not qualify for special education services.
- The grant requires schools/school districts to have grant applications approved by their Boards of Directors.
- Marissa asked when the funds will be allocated. Vanessa reported that funds would start coming in March and could be spent during the current school year if needed.
- Morgan moved and Maria seconded a motion to approve the grant application. All voted to approve.
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- Policies
 - Marissa moved and Morgan seconded a motion to approve these policy sections: Section E/Support Services and Section G/Personnel. Unanimously approved.

Reports

- Administrators Report
 - Maria asked how the Level 4 team, including Vanessa, is managing the current staffing situation from a wellness perspective. Vanessa shared that, compared to hiring/training/supporting a new person mid year, it feels like a better option to maintain the status quo through the school year.
 - Maria also inquired about pay for hourly staff on snow days. Vanessa reported that hourly staff and the cleaning service all are paid when they are forced not to work by inclement weather.
 - Vanessa shared that, despite the recent 4.5 snow days, FGCS will easily meet state instructional hours requirements. The District may need to make up hours because our number of instructional hours is higher than at District schools.
 - Karen alerted Board members that they may be asked to join a facilities planning committee as that process unfolds.

The next Board meeting will be Mon., Feb. 26, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.