

Ellijay Elementary School
School Governance Team Meeting
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
4:00 pm
EES Auditorium

I. Academic Achievement

- A. Decodable Texts: The last piece of the literacy plan is now in place. K and 1st have Geodes and 2nd and up has RAZ. Mrs. Woody asked how long it typically takes to see the effects of the changes. Mrs. Henson said current research says it typically takes 3 years.
- B. Reflex and Frax Math: It is a game based fact fluency program. Frax works on fractions and proportional reasoning. Fact fluency plays a huge role in upper level math. Fraction fluency will help with building conceptual understanding.

II. Parent and Community Engagement

- A. GCSS Family Literacy Night ~ April 29th: Dr. Fonteboa wanted to make sure everyone was aware we will be hosting a literacy night for Gilmer County. The last event was April of 2019. The theme is *Reading is My Superpower*. Dr. Fonteboa wanted to also mention that EES will be able to host a family night as well! We are looking at the week of March 21st to overlap with the book fair, possibly March 24th. Parents would have time to visit their child's homeroom class, see student work, chat with the teacher, receive MAP scores, etc... Mrs. Woody said she feels it would be very well received and that parents feel very disconnected. She feels parents would be very excited to attend. Mr. Bearden said it would be nice to communicate with the teacher outside of emails/electronically. Mrs. Woody agreed that the drop in idea Dr. Fonteboa suggested is a good idea. Mrs. Katie agreed and stated that it allows parents to work the night around after school activities. Mr. Bearden liked the idea of the students being able to "show" their parents around. Dr. Fonteboa said it is nice to "see" where their child is in comparison to the grade level standard. If they come in, they have the opportunity to see a typical day/expectations for students.
- B. Music ~ Mrs. Katie Mayfield: Mrs. Katie shared the musical dates with the team. The K/1 theme is "planned" to me Around the World. She prefers to write her own, so students are more engaged. The 4/5 musical is "Elvis to Today." The students have selected songs.
 - 1. K/1st ~ April 21st
 - 2. 4/5 ~ May 19th
 - 3. EES Chorus Scheduled to Sing the National Anthem at the Braves Game ~ April 11th: We are in hopes that the MLB strike ends soon so our students can sing!
Mrs. Katie said she is planning to take the EES Chorus to participate in an event at Spivey Hall. The students spend just a day, so it is more cost effective. It allows them to sing with other students from across the state. She also has plans to work with GAHA to get out students more involved.

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III. High Performing Culture and Workforce

- A. Charter System Foundation - [School Governance Team Roles & Responsibilities](#): This video was on school operations. It discussed a point of contact for each “area” in the school. For example, Lottie Mitchell is the contact for curriculum/instruction. Dr. Fonteboa gave several examples of points of contact and discussed what she and Mrs. Stover are over. Mr. Bearden appreciated that the video went into detail on SPLOST. He stated this was the most interesting part because it really explained the process. Dr. Fonteboa noted that one of the parts mentioned is one of our most struggling areas: custodial. She discussed how this was done in the past with contracting the service, but Gilmer made the decision to move back to “hiring” custodians for Gilmer. Like the global problem, we are finding it difficult to employ people for these positions. Mrs. Woody said she noticed the difference in contracted services versus a person who works “for” the company while she worked at Verizon. Dr. Fonteboa reminded the team that the consistent hires are all super invested and are doing a fabulous job. EES is looking to fill the last position soon. Mr. Bearden was curious about the hours the custodians work. Dr. Fonteboa said this has been a part of the struggle because many who are interested are interested in hours that line up with the hours their students are in school. Ideally, she wants some coming in early and work the day and have others come in later and work after students are out of the building. It is the later shift that is the hardest to fill. Mrs. Woody asked the best place to apply, which is the BOE. Dr. Fonteboa said she could be contacted directly, but the application is online or in person at the BOE. Mr. Bearden asked the hourly rate because he has some he knows that are looking for a job. Dr. Fonteboa said the rate is \$12/hour with benefits. They have paid holidays and work 4 ten hour days in the summer. Mrs. Woody asked about background checks and drug screening, which all take place.

IV. Operational Effectiveness

- A. Safety: Mr. Bearden has a great recommendation for safety - see B
- B. Mental Health Issues and Social-Emotional Awareness: Mr. Bearden wanted to know where the social emotional awareness takes place for such young students and to what level. He mentioned an example of a student in a situation of feeling the class was moving too fast, yet the student did not know how to cope or problem solve through the situation. He also mentioned that he knows suicide is a much larger issue than in the past. Dr. Fonteboa said these things are taken into consideration. Gilmer has a suicide protocol. We strictly follow the protocol, and most of the time, with these ages, the end result is not a serious threat. Mrs. Woody said her older students said that suicide is discussed by other students frequently at school. She is concerned. She has to coach her

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kids on knowing how to handle the situation. Dr. Fonteboa cautioned that oftentimes, too much attention to students discussing can have a negative effect on the situation. Mrs. Woody expressed that oftentimes, awareness is key. Mr. Bearden said that students knowing the safe place and their outlet is important. Mrs. Woody mentioned several strategies she has in place in her home to help with social-emotional concerns with her own kids. Mrs. Woody asked if educators see that these concerns are happening at a younger age. Dr. Fonteboa mentioned that COVID caused students not being able to interact with others as often, which has resulted in a lack of social-emotional awareness. She also stated that while Mr. Carl Day is always here for support for students, he is not a licensed therapist. The system does have a list of agencies to provide parents. We need even more to support the needs within our community. Mr. Bearden asked if we still have things similar to D.A.R.E. and the abuse lessons we had as students ourselves. We do. Dr. Fonteboa stated that we do have CHAMPS and that Mr. Day teaches the abuse curriculum.

- V. Fiscal Accountability
 - A. School Supplies for SY 22-23: The district will be providing school supplies but in a different manner than last year. This year, the teachers will be able to create the lists themselves and purchases will come directly from that. The entire team feels this is a great plan.
- VI. Questions/Concerns
 - Next meeting will be March 29, 2022

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