

Thomson Middle School Council

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2011

The Thomson Middle School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:03 a.m. in the Office Conference room at Thomson Middle School, 301 Thomson Street, Centerville, GA 31028

School Council members present: Tammy Dunn, Principal
Kynette Cheatham, Parent/Business – Council Chair
Donna Butler, Parent – Vice Chair
Kimberly Tinsley, Teacher – Secretary
Robert Clark, Parent/Business
Kasi Morstad, Parent
Ronald Williams, Teacher

School Council members absent: None

Visitors: None

1. Call to Order
Council Chair, Kynette Cheatham, called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Council Chair, Kynette Cheatham, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.
3. Inspiration
Council Chair, Kynette Cheatham, read an inspirational passage from the book Simple Blessings. Ms. Cheatham stated that the selection and reading of the inspirational passage be open to all members who would like to do so.
4. Added to New Business
Mrs. Dunn asked that bomb threats be added to discussion of new business.
5. Approval of Agenda
It was moved, seconded and carried that the School Council approves the agenda as prepared and presented by Ms. Cheatham.
Motion: Mrs. Butler, Seconded: Ms. Cheatham
Vote: 7 yes votes, 0 no votes
6. Approval of Minutes

It was moved, seconded and carried that the School Council approve the minutes of the meeting held on September, 13, 2011 as prepared and presented by Mrs. Dunn.

Motion: Ms. Tinsley, Seconded: Ms. Cheatham

Vote: 7 yes votes, 0 no votes

7. Report of Principal

SPLOST – Mrs. Dunn reviewed the attachment that she had received from the Houston County Board of Education following the approval of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The following items were included:

Technology in the county schools to be upgraded, such as teacher workstations (not updated since 2004), smartboards, document projectors and clicker systems.

Houston County to start collecting SPLOST funds in April 2012. Funds will be allocated for technology now with county wide wireless being currently reviewed.

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business

a) Ms. Cheatham reviewed the attachment that outlined her Communication Plan which included:

1. Who – Thomson Middle School parents, students and stakeholder
2. Parental Involvement – call outs to include information about School Council, to set up a School Council website and to provide access to School Council minutes through a link on the website.
3. Purpose – to improve communication, to gain new ideas and to improve education for Thomson Middle School students
4. Other Ideas – provide a School Council information table on parent involvement nights and provide directions on how to access web link and to apply a parental response opportunity to web link, to obtain feedback from Council members that would be discussed during meeting
5. Time line – implementation to be based on need and urgency
6. Implementation – to be by all School Council members and led by the Council Chair, Council Secretary and Thomson Middle School Principal

It was moved, seconded and carried that the School Council approve the creation of a Communication Plan as prepared and presented by Ms. Cheatham.

Motion: Ms. Cheatham, Seconded: Mrs. Dunn

Vote: 7 yes votes, 0 no votes

b) Council to attach minutes and notes to newsletters that are sent to parents

10. Old Business

- a) e books - Mr. Clark opened discussion of e books being made available to Thomson Middle School students. Mrs. Dunn responded that Ms. Hawkins is in the process of obtaining e books and getting information on what books are available. Public library has e books available; other sources available on Kindle. Textbooks are available on Thomson Middle School website.
- b) GAPPS Recommendations – Mrs. Dunn reviewed the recommended actions from the GAPPS Analysis including implementation of curricular observations through e walks, recent staff training on essential questions, implementation of differentiated instruction, assessments of staff and students, standards based classroom. All schools that have had GAPPS analysis showed similar results. And need to emphasize Differentiated Instruction
- c) School Improvement Plan – to follow the county plan, to be research based and to include job imbedded professional learning, RTI training. It should also include better communication between stakeholders, celebration of successes to include implementation of Student of the Week and more teachers in leadership roles.
- d) Teacher Leadership Academy – to promote shared decision making. Thomson Middle representatives are Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Brewer and Mr. Williams
- e) Celebration of Accomplishments – may include Student of the Week, CRCT celebration for students that pass all portions

11. New Business

Mrs. Dunn discussed the recent bomb threats with the Council, stating that the authorities were able to narrow the calls to certain streets. Mr. Clark had offered technical advice to Centerville Police in his capacity as a Houston County Sheriff's deputy. AT & T helped target certain streets. Cell used to make calls probably Trac-phone or similar phone without billing so no information available. Officers began asking questions in certain areas of town and calls stopped, possibly because of the proximity of the officers and lack of desired results from bomb threats. Thomson Middle School staff had training class, and listened to calls. Time of day and wording of calls was unusual; other places in town also received bomb threats. Parents were notified by call out; possibly could be improved?

12. Adjournment

Ms. Cheatham announced that the Council will meet again on February 7, 2012 at 7 a.m. in the Office Conference room of Thomson Middle School. It was moved, seconded and carried that the School Council adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Butler, Seconded: Mr. Clark

Vote: 6 yes votes, 0 no votes