



## MINUTES OF AUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The structure of the minutes of a meeting of the school council should reflect the agenda of the meeting.

The Austin Elementary School Council met in regular session on Monday, Nov 14, 2016, 12:35 p.m., Austin Elementary, 5435 Roberts Drive, Dunwoody, GA, 30338.

School Council Members Present:

Ann Culbreath  
Christy Kramer  
Lynn Feiman  
Jason Martin  
Helen Knight  
Jenny Shulman  
Marni Barrett  
Despina Lamas  
Callie Parker

School Council Members Absent: (list members absent)  
Amy Rohan

9 members were present, representing a quorum.

### 1. **Call to Order**

Chairperson Helen Knight called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

### 2. **Recognition of Visitors**

Krissy Taylor  
Debbie Boden  
Angie Smith  
Kina Champion

### 3. **Approval of Agenda**

Helen Knight distributed the agenda posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Moved, seconded, and carried that the school council approve the agenda as presented. MOTION: Jenny Shulman SECOND: Jason Martin; VOTE: Unanimous 9:0

### 4. **Approval of Minutes**

Jenny Shulman made motion to add the PTA update to our agenda.

Motion to approve: Callie Parker; 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – Lynn Feiman

Helen Knight distributed the minutes of the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the School Council. Moved, seconded, and carried that the school council approve the minutes of the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

MOTION: Jenny Schulman; SECOND ; L. Feiman VOTE: Unanimous 9:0

## 5. Old Business

a. Rebuild- Concern about agreement between city and county about the ball fields. Optimistic about the fields working out for PCMS.

b. MAPS assessment – Winter Assessment: Plans for winter; Dr Culbreath met with BLT (leadership team). Grade chairs developed (with Kossak’s help) a succinct plan for the testing window from each grade level. Every grade level will communicate testing schedule with families as well as a whole school plan included in the PTO email blast. Make up testing: secure testing environment. Catoe and Hilkert will assist in troubleshooting and make-up. K-2 tests in Reading and Math only; Grades 3-5 test in all content areas. Teachers/administration are excited about the use of MAPS as a diagnostic tool. It is a good tool to use for gifted qualification since it is a nationally normed test.

Kindergarten parents – concern about fewer chances for a child to get into the Gifted Program since MAPS only identifies eligible in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

\*Ann Culbreath discussed working with Foundation about possible purchase of more laptops to ease testing schedule.

c. Construction Committee- Dr. Culbreath has meeting this afternoon and this evening and will provide updates as they become available. If Dr Culbreath gets information from meeting today, we can call a special council meeting.

d. SPLOST - County came council to get our recommendation for spending to alleviate overcrowding. As a cluster, we voted to keep Dunwoody kids in Dunwoody. DHS and PCMS stand behind Option B. Nancy Jester is recommending that Austin council make our opinions known. Vote is December 5<sup>th</sup>. We, as a Council, support Option A – keep Dunwoody students in Dunwoody; Doraville creates their own cluster and will have its own high school. Draft a letter from Austin Elementary parents based on principles behind our choice. Unanimous vote to draft letter.

## 6. New Business

**a/b. Enrollment/Attendance**—Current enrollment is 670.

The chart below gives information on absences

154 students with perfect attendance

Enrollment since last meeting: 14

Withdrawals since last meeting: 10

# of absences	# of students
15+ (includes all categories below)	3
9+ (includes all categories below)	8
7+ (includes all categories below)	19
5+	56

Dr. Culbreath needs to address absences in PTO email blast. Communication needs to be made about attendance/refer to information from website regarding absences. Absences may have effect on CCRPI scores.

c. Discovery Field Trips – feedback from parents that Gifted field trips result in lost days for students remaining at school. administration has emphasized the importance of providing individualized learning opportunities, leadership/team building opportunities on Gifted Field trip days.

**d. Open Records procedures:** Kina Champion from DCSD: Website brings us into Compliance with Open Records procedures.

e. **PTO/ Foundation Update:** Debbie Boden and Krissy Taylor:

New website is up and running. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade T shirts, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trips tested. All field trips and dues can be paid online next year. PTO needs to streamline with the Foundation about expenses and communication.

Spirit Night – Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at Wing Factory

New partner – Village Burger approx. \$500 – best spirit night yet

Picture Retakes available soon – PTO makes \$4500 from Cady Studios

Yearbook – fewer pages; offer it for \$25 instead of \$45. 80 pages instead of 92 pages

National Teacher Appreciation Week – moving Austin’s schedule to coincide with National Teacher Appreciation – first week of May

Next Box Tops contest ends Dec 2

Book Fair – successful

Launch new spirit wear line- more simple designs; dry-fit and cotton options; girl fit option

STEM logo competition – 4<sup>th</sup> grade design competition and options will be available with online ordering.

1st Tea for International Families soon

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Patriotic Performance went well – no PTO meeting; Austin-sponsored event in November 2017

Special Friends Day – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade did Special Friends Day; awesome project but too expensive; international families ask for pictures/links to purchase (be more specific for international families.)

Cult Arts performance – K-2 Children’s Museum (STEM related)

Harlem Globetrotter coming on Dec 14; Anti-Bullying program – 2 programs: 8:00 & 9:00

Odyssey of the Mind – parent volunteer agreed to coach, but little interest in forming a team

November Walk To School – too dark; concerns about safety; Discussion about doing it twice a year; must cancel November due to safety issues

100% joined PTO; more people are reading emails.

7. **Developed Agenda** for Next Meeting- not presented

8. **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the school council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

MOTION: H. Knight; SECOND: D. Lamas

VOTE: Unanimous 6:0

**[The next meeting of the Austin School Council  
will be held on January 23, 2017  
at 12:30 p.m. at Austin Elementary.]**