

Matthews Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020

In attendance: Erin Ferrell-Harper, Dane Jackson, Joanna Schimizzi, Kristen Shaben, Jeff Miller, Susannah White, Jay Grymes, Becky Hawke

Absent: Kelly Morris, Jenny Reill, Adam Brooks

6:32 – Erin called the meeting to order and declared a quorum

Members reviewed the minutes from January 14. The minutes were emailed electronically, but a 2<sup>nd</sup> review was conducted.

Erin move to approve. Kristen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Town of Matthews and CMS Update – Becky Hawke and Commissioner Miller**

- A few weeks ago, Mayor Higdon, Commissioner Miller and Mayor Pro Tem Garner met with CMS School Board members and Superintendent Winston. The meeting was informal and there was no agenda, but there was a goal of setting a new tone.
  - There was interest in wanting to move off the “Municipal Concerns Act”.
  - The attendees also discussed concerns about trailers and security.
  - Area Superintendent has committed to having “Open Office Hours” at Town Hall. This will be a way for parents to have access to her and to have representation accessible.
  - Out of the meeting, the Town Council formed a resolution to not build or establish municipal charter schools in Matthews, which passed unanimously, 7-0.
- Erin asked about the trailers given the recent tornado weather.
  - Becky shared that CMS indicated that trailers are an issue county-wide, given that they can’t keep up with growth.
  - Jeff shared that CMS can’t generate their own income. Jeff proposed that perhaps that there is an opportunity for the Town of Matthews to discuss with Mecklenburg County the needs of Matthews’ citizens.

### **Update on current status of metrics**

- Erin identified that our next steps are to continue collecting data on schools.
  - Erin has met with ½ of her schools. She has two more to contact. Principals have been considerably responsive and excited.
  - Dane would like to know how CMS can help get data
  - Kristen Shaben – Principal Wood was aggressive and hesitance – Adam’s school. She met with Principal at Elizabeth Lane, who was very receptive. Landsdowne principal scheduled, but she had an emergency. Charlotte Latin – met with, but

haven't heard back. Charlotte Prep – had meeting scheduled, but tornado.  
Charlotte Secondary

- Jay Grymes – heard back – and his CMS principal directed him to go to the NC Report Card.
- Joanna – contacted Bain Elementary, Charlotte Christian and Fletcher school. All were very receptive.
- Commissioner Miller – Supt. Winston mentioned that Commissioner Miller could send the forms directly to him to have Renee McCoy and Dr. Williams gather the information.
- Becky Hawke suggested that we send it to CMS, who can fill out.
  - Erin acknowledged that if it comes from CMS Central Office, it would be more consistent.
  - Joanna suggested that it could then be sent to principals to complete the qualitative.
  - Susannah talked to three of her schools. Suggested that we give a heads up to any contacts that we are sending it to CMS Central Office. Dane offered that we could then make sure that it gets sent back to allow them to share the bragging/qualitative information.
  - Joanna proposed that Head of School Giller asked about other private schools. Phase one included CAIS (Charlotte Area INdependent Schools) that fell within the radius, others may be included in Phase two.
- Erin inquired about where the data would be housed.
  - Dane shared that the data could be housed digitally, if it's printed, it has a shelf-life.
  - Erin asked if it could stay a Google Doc so that it could be tweaked.
  - Becky suggested that the Doc probably needs to be shared with a website host to allow them to discuss with the experts how the data should be displayed and if there are design costs.
    - Joanna brought up mobile devices that may need something different than a Google Doc.
  - Dane asked how long maintenance period will be.
    - Joanna suggested quarterly updates. Commissioner Miller suggested every 6 months. Others suggested once a year.
  - To eliminate the need for constant updating due to principal turnover, the committee decided that the only contact information shared will be: School Name, website, phone number.
  - In response to questions about if the Committee will be continued in the future years, Commissioner Miller shares that the project is important and its information is useful. The committee might have new incoming members and assigned schools would be given to new members. The committee will probably remain until someone decides it's no longer needed. Are there other towns or cities that have this type of a database – it's unique and valuable, personalized.

- Becky – clarifying – there are two different things – one is the annual update regarding scores and staff percentages. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is that Town of Matthews staff can keep updates per any requests from the school, as staff is constantly updating ToM website.
- The Committee discussed what time of year to release the data– applications are due by January for most CAIS. NC School Report Card usually comes out October.
- Kristen suggests waiting to hear feedback from school about process of completing the data entry.
- Susannah – what do you do if no one from the school responds?
  - Dane – two emails and a phone call –
  - Joanna suggested that the Town of Matthews could send a final letter
  - Erin suggested just sharing the website of any unresponsive schools.
- Next meeting – continue to debrief data collection.

Next meeting – March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Erin Ferrell Harper – move to adjourn. Kristen Shaben to 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adjourned at 7:24 pm.