

Matthews Committee on Education (MCE)
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

In attendance: Erin Ferrell-Harper, Joanna Schimizzi, Kristen Shaben, Jeff Miller, Susannah White, Jay Grymes, Becky Hawke, Kelly Morris, Jenny Reill, Adam Brooks

Absent: Dane Jackson

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

Members reviewed the minutes from February 11. The minutes were emailed electronically, but a 2nd review was conducted.

Erin move to approve. Kristen 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.

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

- Commissioner Miller provided the MCE with copy of the updated CMS/Town of Matthews (ToM) updates. The handout includes a copy of the resolution that passed the Town Council, a copy of a media report on the passing of the resolution and updates from the February 26th Municipal Education Advisory Committee Meeting (MEAC).

Update on current status of metrics

- Each committee member shared an update on which schools had completed the request for information
 - The committee discussed including their school name, website if the school didn't submit any data
 - Joanna suggested that we give schools an example of the effort that other schools took to represent their schools?
 - Kristen suggested giving schools a few weeks to review "Here is how your school is being displayed?"
- Jeff shared that the Committee's work was shared with the MEAC and that the MEAC group was very impressed with the work.
- Becky asked that MCE members do some research at how data is displayed and suggest examples of websites that could work to recommend to the website developers.
 - Erin asked the Committee to suggest guidelines for how to display the data. The following were suggested:
 - User friendly and accessible
 - Easily compare schools
 - Make a tutorial on how to use Excel to filter
 - Mobile
 - Searchable
 - Grade level category

- School specific
 - ADA compliance
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- Kristen shared that being able to compare schools is important
 - Becky asked for clarification – is it like being able to select 4 schools and compare side by side
 - Jenny shared that it would be nice to be able to compare schools side by side
 - Jeff mentioned that we could have tabs at the bottom that narrows the search to Elementary, Middle, High
 - Adam mentioned that we need to clean up the data first. Does the Town of Matthews have a Google Account that could host this?
 - Jay shared two options:
 - simplest would be – just hosting the massive spreadsheet
 - Most complex would be using our spreadsheet data base to allow folks to filter/query
 - Adam offered the idea of having a page off of the town’s website to explain the documents and the committee suggested other components:
 - What we did and why we did it
 - Video of how to read it
 - Data itself
 - Advocacy page with links to organizations that could support families in their educational choice
 - Example – how to contact the NCDPI Charter School Advisory Board, the CMS Area Superintendent meeting dates
 - Adam to suggest changes that need to be handled to sterilize data
 - Jenny shared that some users might not want to learn about Excel, so how do we present it in a categorical way
 - Joanna suggested that we might want to think about mobile view and possibly including PDFs of each school to be user friendly for people who don’t have access to Excel or Google Sheets. Possible to have two options?
 - Next steps:
 - Get the data combined into one spreadsheet
 - Into rows and cleaned
 - Verify if the ToM has Google Apps and can host there
 - Becky – Can you ask your website host how to balance being able to sort data with being mobile/user friendly
 - Kelly suggested that we might want to create school profiles for each school for folks who don’t want to drill down into Excel

- Becky – from a cost perspective, they might provide a cost estimate that will need to be submitted to the Town Council as “consideration for funding” since the MCE does not have a budget
- Erin proposed that if schools don’t have any data by next meeting, uploaded
- Joanna to send out Google Folder link to ask everyone to submit
 - March 13th -
 - April 21st -
- Becky – can we provide an example Excel spreadsheet to send to the developer
- Next meeting add discussion about landing page

Next meetings – April 21st , May 12th

Erin Ferrell Harper – move to adjourn. Kristen Shaben to 2nd. Adjourned at 7:42 pm.