

DeSana Middle School LSC Meeting
DATE: September 15, 2022
TIME: 7:30 am
DeSana Media Center & Live Microsoft Teams
625 James Rd. Alpharetta, GA 30004
Keith Sargent, Principal

Attendees - Voting Members

James Armour
Christina Westerfield
Juan Arezia
Kristy Ortego
Lora Cox
Leela Chitta
Chekema Hector
Bridget Bryson
Jen Schuster

Attendees - Other

Keith Sargent - Principal
Kristin Morrissey - Board Member, District 2
Heather Tallant - Assistant Principal
Ashley Starr - Assistant Principal

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by James Armour at 7:37am
- II. Welcome and Introductions
Mr. Sargent welcomed the team members.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
First motion to approve the agenda was made by Christina Westerfield. Second motion was made by Jen Schuster. All members were in favor of approving the minutes.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from May 11th.
First motion to approve the minutes was made by Bridget Bryson. Second motion was made by Christina Westerfield. All members were in favor of approving the minutes.
- V. Old Business
 - A. None
- VI. New Business
 - I. Welcome & Introduce New LSC Members
Mr. Armour asked the new members of the LSC to introduce themselves. Ms. Lora Cox, Ms. Kristy Ortego, Mr. Leela Chitta (virtual) introduced themselves as new parent members of the LSC. Ms. Bridgett Bryson, Ms. Jen Schuster, and Ms. Chekema Hector introduced themselves as teacher

representatives. Mrs. Kristin Morrissey introduced herself as the representative from the Board of Education.

II. Draft School Calendar 2024 - 2025

- Voting on Draft Calendar for 2024-2025 – must have 178 days for students – goal for equal number of days between semesters – calendar is driven by holiday break (December)
- Online learning days – election days – gives high school students an opportunity to volunteer to vote/work in polls and experience – allows staff to vote
- September 20th due date for feedback – group feedback vs. individual feedback (email Mr. Sargent) Group feedback is positive.

III. School Improvement Plan

- School Improvement Plan (Constantly improving and tweaking, goal for the next 5 years)
- District has spent a lot of time revamping strategic initiative plan
- 5 Strategic Goal Areas – Focused on #1, 4, & 5
 - #1 Connect & Thrive Time – Mondays – homeroom style, T-F – academic enrichment and focus (help sessions) Friday is activity bound, students who are bus bound have an opportunity to participate in activities during this time on Fridays
 - Teachers/students forecasting day – encouragement by teachers for them to check their grades and make decisions on where they need to go for the remainder of the week. Also celebrating good grades at this time as well.
 - Powerful tool to assist with goal setting for students both in school and outside of school
 - #2 – work with Denmark for Spring Fling – trying to connect with Denmark Community of Schools. *goal to make bigger and more inclusive within community
 - #3 – looking at data to increase student achievement
 - #4 – increase Lexile grade among students – will talk more about data as we progress thru the year.

VII. Principals Report

- New Admin Team
 - Mr. Starr: 4th year at DeSana, previously at Midway Elementary
- Dr. Heather Talent
 - New to DeSana, previously at Denmark High School

- Demographic Information
 - 1,223 students, 108 staff member
 - 1% American Indian, 38% Asian, 10% African American, 22% Hispanic, 3% multi-racial, 26% white
- Connect & Thrive Time
- Reading Program – new to DeSana, surveyed other schools in district
 - South Forsyth & Lakeside Middle model – reading enrichment for 6th & 7th grade, reading strategies for 8th grade
 - Nationally, 60% of students aren't reading at level, in district at 40% of students not reading at grade level.
 - Decoding, fluency and comprehension
 - Goal is to have students read for pleasure, not because they have to
 - Book checkouts have increased
- New Denmark library being built – DeSana hoping to partner with them to use the library
- Hispanic Heritage month – September 15th – October 15th
 - Media Center: Hispanic month bookmark contests
 - Reading contest, winner gets bookfair dollars
 - Both of these were student driven
 - Volunteer hours
- 4H Club partners with University of Georgia Logging hours, giving back to community
 - Goal is to teach students to get community hours
- RBM of Alpharetta – great business partner, financial support of DeSana
- Topics for next LSC Meeting:
 - Send requests to Mr. Sargent

VIII. Adjournment

- First Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:34 am was made by Chekema Hector. Motion seconded by Bridget Bryson.

Meeting minutes compiled by Kristy Ortego, LSC Secretary