



SLT Meeting Minutes | October 27, 2016 | 6:00 pm

ATTENDANCE*:

Cotswold Staff

Alicia Hash, Principal
Kurt Fruendt, Assistant Principal
Randy Clutts
Dana Cottom
Allie English
Debbie Grimm
Carly Hammack
Carla Haughton
Barbara Helm
Kelly Lalli

SLT Members

Allen Robinson, Chair
Lecil Sullivan, Vice-Chair
Laura Fahrney, Secretary
Tracy Barcott
Patty Drummond
Susie Groves
Linda Kroha
Rashidah Morgan
Sean Paone
Jennifer Taylor

**Meeting was open to and attended by others in the Cotswold community*

Called to order at 6:03 pm

Welcome and Introductions by SLT Chair, Allen Robinson

Discussion with School Board Member, Eric Davis

Eric Davis addressed the group and answered questions. He covered the following topics:

- Academic growth is key definition of success; 52% of CMS students exceeded 1-year growth targets (most at a large spread)
- The Board is focused on creating optionality for all families; this starts with notion of choice; board has experienced continued pent-up demand for participation in IB, Montessori, Stem, Arts, etc.
- Current Proposal:
 - Student Assignment / Magnet Programs: focused on choice; wanting to bring parents and children options they are excited about. There is a dual goal: (1) reduce concentration and (2) keep from disrupting what is working well.

- CMS is adopting a revised method to characterize socioeconomic status; moving away from “free and reduced lunch” status as the determinate of economically disadvantaged. The new definition of socioeconomic status will be based on census data (based on parental income, education status, number dependents, etc.)
- As part of the new proposal, CMS will be divided into 548 blocks and rank-ordered into low-med-high (high = advantaged)
 - Transportation zones will be downsized from 4 to 3 zones with the goal of balanced populations in terms of socioeconomic rankings
 - Additionally, CMS will target to have the same “offerings” in each zone (i.e. within any one zone, if there is a magnet, there will be a magnet in all 3 zones)
- 1st Phase - rolling 4-year program
 - Will open 3,600 new magnet seats (roughly) in first 4 years
 - Will vote on this plan on November 9th.
- Once the plan is decided upon (Eric anticipates it will pass), the board will move to Phase 2 (meeting on November 10) which looks at boundaries and feeder patterns.
 - Eric noted that the current boundaries (lines) do not make much sense and while some folks want their lines changed – some folks feel very strongly about staying where they are.
 - The decision on Phase 2 is slated for June 2017, but won't go into effect until the 2018 school year; Phase 1 will go in place August 2017.
- Eric hosted a Q&A with audience
 - Question was posed related to location where new seats will be opened. Eric pointed folks to the CMS board’s website for exact details but mentioned Billingsville, Paul Creek and new 100+ Montessori seats, potentially for 7-12.
 - Eric addressed how the lottery will work. The lottery is changing to make it a weighted lottery based on socioeconomic levels.
 - Example: if opening a full magnet, the target will be 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 (high, medium, low on socioeconomic measure).
 - The pie will get bigger so there will overall be more lottery spaces available.
 - It will be similar to current system, however, in terms of priority for siblings.
 - A question was posed as to how we can be most influential on the results of these proposals. Eric suggested closely monitoring the CMS website, meeting notes, etc. Eric will set up regular calls with Allen Robinson (Cotswold SLT Chair) as the conduit to keep our community up-to-date.
 - Eric noted that he would be an advocate for no changes at Cotswold - second goal of the board is not to “mess with what is working” and Cotswold is viewed as a positive example in terms of balance, successful magnet program, etc.

- There was a conversation around Cotswold's existing lottery process; 80% of lottery seats are from zoned families; this would change as part of the new proposal as there would be a limit on zoned magnet seats.
- Eric noted that we need to look at opening up IB spots for middle years to accommodate families who want that curriculum.
- Ms. Hash cited that Cotswold has ~200 students in the magnet program out of ~820 in the total student population.
- Question posed: if you are already in a magnet spot, will the changes impact you? Eric said No.

Closing items

Allen Robinson noted there are 4 nominees for kindergarten representatives for SLT. The nominees will be published in Cougar bites with a call for voting. Allen noted he will send out confirmation for November meeting date.

Meeting Adjourned 6:53 pm

Laura Fahrney, SLT Secretary