

Report to the Public Minutes  
September 26, 2022

**\*Mr. Mickel Smith (Federal Coordinator)** Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Smith began meeting with a welcome and opening remarks of who would be speaking

**\*Parent Engagement – Mrs. Lana Doyle, District Coordinator/School Facilitator**

Mrs. Doyle presented a handout on “What is Title1? as an overview.

Federal and State requirements were discussed

Parental Involvement has made a shift to Family And Community Engagement F.A.C.E.

As a school we have many things planned in our Engagement Plan.

Our school website contains School and District Plans as well as a School Information Packet. School Compacts were given out during Parent Teacher Conference but they are also available on-line.

Backpack Program has been started back through BETA Club

Mr. Story will be hosting a Veteran’s Day for the community.

Mrs. Marnie, school counselor, will be inviting community members during a career focus month.

Fall Night will be held October 7, 2022. These are just a few examples of engagement opportunities.

Communication is key- Aptegy, facebook, school reach, surveys, echo and Buzz have been essential.

Working on the Parent Center- It has been under reconstruction. Mrs. Shanna Smith, along with Mrs. Doyle is making changes to accommodate all parents.

Survey Results - Showed that most parents feel safe and welcome. There were many still unsure about what Title 1 means and questions about funding.

Family and Community Engagement Organization- Since, Covid the Family and Community Engagement Organization has lost some key leadership roles. Mr. Rose plans to hold a meeting in the near future to reorganize this organization

School Improvement Plan ties to a F.A.C.E. Plan.

Same Goals- Reading is a district focus. 30% of our students scored in need of improvement as a district.

Benchmark Workshop, Tutoring, SOAR, Read Across the Campus, One School One Book are some initiatives to help reading improvement .

***\*Elementary Programs and Testing – Mr. Shawn Rose***

New Hires- Noah Rodgers- Librarian, Natalie Johnson- SPED, and Ally Martin-Secretary

**New Programs**

\* **Benchmark Literacy** is a state approved literacy program. It was purchased with ESSER monies late last spring. It includes all essential components of the Science of Reading. All literacy teachers at Hillcrest Elementary received in-person professional development in June. We have a six year contract, which includes all of the digital resources for teachers and students.

\* **XLI** is a new resource that will be used in 5th and 6th grade science class. It was also purchased with ESSER monies. Mrs. Deanna is familiar with this supplementary digital resource and will be using it in her classroom.

\* **SEL** (Social and Emotional Learning); one of the state's focuses is directed at mental health, for students, families, and staff. Mrs. Marnie, along with our staff, has begun implementing this interactive program over the last few weeks. Lessons include; attitude, bullying, student emotions, safety and protecting your personal boundaries.

\* **SOAR**, SOAR is a 40 minute period in each day that is dedicated to a student's enrichment. Students may receive Speech, OT, PT, Dyslexia Therapy, G/T, or differentiated instruction inside one of their classrooms. The primary purpose of the SOAR period is to limit the number of instructional minutes lost each day to these programs.

**Programs (not new to Hillcrest)**

\* **Summer School** had 30-35 students on a consistent basis in the month of June. Summer school's primary focus was on the student's loss of learning of essential skills.

\* **After-School-Tutoring** has begun on both campuses till 5:00PM. We had 53 students last Thursday. We are providing meals and transportation. After studying student data, students with the most need were invited to attend; however, notes were sent home making it available to anyone.

- \* Intramural Basketball. We had 114 1st thru 6th grade students signed up.
- \* We have 19 Kindergarteners signed up for Lil Dribblers.
- \* Funfest October 7th
- \* Fundraiser for new Pee Wee Uniforms

Our staff is continuing to use the Buzz digital platform. Buzz is almost identical to the platform that high school uses, called Echo. Each student grades 3-6 is taking a device home each day. We have 4 virtual learners enrolled with the TRVP (COOP).

Gifted and Talented is taught by Mrs. Rhonda Scott

Students in kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade have enrichment classes, 30 minutes a week. Students who are identified in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> grades have 160 minutes a week scheduled to take the place of normal classroom instruction. Identified high school students receive their G/T Thru A/P classes.

Dyslexia Therapy- District Coordinator

Mrs. Shanna Smith is our Dyslexia Therapist, she is certified in Connections and Take Flight. She provides therapy to 24 students at this time. New students will be added to her schedule upon their needs. Kindergarten students will be added after the first Semester. There are several ways that students can receive Dyslexia therapies; 1) doctor's diagnosis, 2) all students grades K-2 take a dyslexia screener; afterward, if needed, Mrs. Smith would provide further testing. She is the district's person that can give the Tier 2 test to students. We can only identify that a student has characteristics of dyslexia and we can offer dyslexia therapy.

Principal Rose presented on elementary test scores and data for the 2021-2022 School Year. Hillcrest Elementary was in the top quarter of schools in the Northeast Educational Cooperative in all subject areas and in grade 3-6. Other school data was reviewed.

***\*Mr. Mike Nunnally (New Tech Principal)-***

***New Staff-*** Trent Kirksey: Certified Teacher for English and History  
Noah Rogers: Long term substitute for the library, Physical Education Major

Mr. Nunnally talked about the different school community hands-on activities that highschool used to begin the school year. Egg Drop was one that the students really got into and was a great success.

He is excited to see a push in reading throughout the campus and in all subject areas. Teachers are participating in dropping everything to read. This is setting a great example of the importance of reading, even at the highschool level.

Mr. Nunnally gave an update to all school clubs such as BETA, FBLA, FFA, and Athletics. There are a lot of activities and competitions that the students are currently involved in, and they are representing the school well.

Local churches and individuals have made donations to Mrs. Turner' BETA club. Weekly they pack food in bags for the Backpack Program.

Ms. Fortenberry received a \$4000 grant for new library books. In addition, high school was able to have our first book fair in several years.

Mrs Turner and Mrs Netreda were successful in receiving a Math grant for \$20,000 as well as a \$37,000 grant for the Eagles Nest!

Mr. Nunnally presented a chart comparing 7th-10th grade 2022 test scores to surrounding schools in the county. All grades ranked 1st overall. Literacy scores were not only the highest in the county in all grades, but were ranked first in the Northeast Cooperative. The high scores in reading helped the district percentage of students in "Need Support".

**\*Mr. Mike Smith (Federal Coordinator)-** Explained why we are considered a Title 1 school and how important it is to feel out those free and reduced lunch forms. Mr. Smith explained budgeting and how Title 1 money is spent .

FY 23 Financial Information – Mr. Mike Smith, Superintendent  
FY 23 Capital Improvements - Mr. Mike Smith, Superintendent

\* Open for discussion- Mr. Mike Nunnally opened a discussion on the high attendance for the parent teacher conference. The school is seeing high attendance with on-site opportunities. Mr. Parsley questioned the higher attendance. Mrs. Doyle explained that the community is ready for face-to face involvement after a couple of years of social distancing. Technology has been a great resource but nothing can take the place of personal relationships. The school community needs and wants that interaction. Mr. Rose added that we have seen a great number of attendance for our intramural basketball games.

The meeting ended with a discussion on how important relationships are in creating a true student centered community

\*Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting.

