**Hilltop Elementary School Council**

**April 13, 2021**

The Hilltop Elementary School Council met in regular session on March 13, 2021, at 7:31 a.m. in the media center at the school.

**School Council Members Present:**

Dr. Ovedia Glover, Principal

Dr. Ruth Bennett, Assistant Principal of Instruction

Kimberley Slane, Office Secretary

Amber Haslett, Teacher

Sandy Sawyer, Teacher

Shawon Moody, Teacher & Parent

Shannon Grieshop, Teacher

Andrea Simmons, PTO

Jason Wood, PTO

Mandy Cobb, Parent

Christie Baggett, Parent

Leah Aiken, Parent

Amy Johnson, Parent

Juan Figueroa, Parent

**Welcome/Acknowledgements**

Dr. Glover welcomed everyone to our called School Council meeting. We are required to have four each year. We added this meeting to go over end of year activities and dates of the Georgia Milestones. She thanked everyone for coming and working with us. She acknowledged the people that were new to our meeting.

**Call to Order**

Christie Baggett made motion to call meeting to order at 7:31. Mandy Cobb seconded the motion.

**Pledge**

The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

We asked if you or anyone you knew would like to volunteer for PTO at last meeting. PTO should be involving parents next school year. Thank you for spreading the word. For the last 3 years, Jason Wood and Andrea Simmons have been instrumental in working and helping out. Shannon Grieshop has been the teacher liaison. Currently our PTO has four officers that have worked hard as a team. Now their children are in Middle and High School. The new officers will be trained before handing over the responsibilities. Glover is not in charge of the funds for PTO.

Jason Wood said that there is about $10,000 in PTO funds. There was about $20,000 prior to COVID. They donated about $12,000 towards the digital marquis. The PTO works to get teachers what they need. The have fundraisers such as the Christmas event where students buy gifts for their family and ice cream socials. They are good stewards of the money. The goal is to have fundraisers where PTO does not have to spend any money. COVID prevented fundraisers. A four-person leadership team and many volunteers run the PTO activities. PTO also get volunteers to cut things out and make copies for teachers.

Andrea Simmons said they beg, solicit, and ask that parents come to support our awesome school. Hilltop is the best and we can give our kids even more with an awesome PTO team. Their vision supports the school vision and leadership. Pass the word for parents to come.

Dr. Glover asked Leah Aiken to help us drum up volunteers. PTO needs a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Election is in May for the PTO officers. Mrs. Slane is the point of contact for the close out.

We have all four officer positions to fill this May for upcoming school year. Dr. Glover will do a call out this week.

The first week in May is Teacher Appreciation Week. The most valuable tool that affects learning is the teachers. Mrs. Slane is the point of contact for donations for this week. She is here from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Slane will communicate with Andrea Simmons and Jason Wood to set up and celebrate teachers each day that week. We need prepackaged store bought items for that week. We may have a sweet bar one day, a caffeine bar one day, food truck one day, etc.

**Georgia Milestones**

Dr. Glover said we are ready for the GA Milestones. Our teachers are doing an incredible job and are the ones making it happen. We are finding ways to encourage and celebrate them.

Dr. Bennett reviewed the packet received.

Third grade will complete ELA Session 1 on April 28th, 2021. They will have a maximum of 90 minutes to complete this portion of the GMAS. On April 29th, 2021, they will complete ELA Session 2. They will have a maximum of 80 minutes to complete this portion of the GMAS. They will also complete ELA Session 3 on April 29th. They will have a maximum of 80 minutes to complete this portion.

The Assessment Design (types of questions) on the 3rd grade ELA GMAS is as follows:

* 1-point Selected-Response & Technology Enhanced items (This is like multiple choice and drag and drop answers). There will be 37 questions of this type.
* 2-point Technology-Enhanced items (This is like drag and drop answers). There will be 5 questions of this type.
* 2-point Constructed Response items. There will be 1 question of this type which will equal 2 points.
* 4-point Extended Constructed-Response Items (this is usually a narrative essay). There will be 1 question of this type.
* 7-point Extended Writing Response items (usually an information or opinion response to a passage they read). There will be 1 question of this type.
* Field Test Items (doesn’t count towards or against students. The student doesn’t know they are field test questions.) There will be 6 questions of this type which will equal 0 points.

The Domain Structure and Content Weights for 3rd grade ELA GMAS is as follows:

* Reading and Vocabulary are worth about 32 points, which is about 53% of the test.
* Key Ideas and Details are worth about 18 points, which is about 30% of the test.
* Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas is worth about 8 points, which is about 13% of the test.
* Vocabulary Acquisition and Use is worth about 6 points, which is about 10% of the test.
* Writing is worth about 16 points, which is about 27% of the test.
* Language is worth about 12 points, which is about 20% of the test.

The website at the bottom of the handout has this information as well as examples of questions and passages. The website is as follows: <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instrction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/EOG-Study-Resource-Guides.aspx>

The 3rd grade Math GMAS Session 1 will be taken on April 30th. They will have a maximum of 65 minutes to take this portion of the test. Then Session 2 will be taken April 30th. They will have a maximum of 65 minutes to take this portion of the test.

The Assessment Design (types of questions) on the 3rd grade Math GMAS is as follows:

* 1-point Selected-Response & Technology Enhanced items (This is like multiple choice and drag and drop answers). There will be 42 questions of this type, which will equal 42 points.
* 2-point Constructed Response items. There will be 8 questions of this type, which will equal 16 points.
* Field Test Items (doesn’t count towards or against students. The student doesn’t know they are field test questions.) There will be 5 questions of this type, which will equal 0 points.

The Domain Structure and Content Weights for 3rd grade Math GMAS is as follows:

* Operations and Algebraic Thinking are worth about 15 points, which is about 25% of the test.
* Numbers and Operations are worth about 20 points, which is about 35% of the test.
* Measurement and Data are worth about 17 points, which is about 30% of the test.
* Geometry is worth about 6 points, which is about 10% of the test.

In order to pass the test students must at least reach achievement level 3, which is categorized as a Proficient Learner. [www.gaexperienceonline.com](http://www.gaexperienceonline.com) provides some practice tools for students.

4th grade will be taking ELA Session 1 on May 3, 2021. They will have a maximum of 90 minutes to complete this portion. They will take ELA Session 2 on May 4, 2021. They will have a maximum of 80 minutes to complete this portion. They will also take ELA Session 3 on May 4, 2021. They will have a maximum of 80 minutes to complete this portion of the test. 4th grade will take Math Session 1 on May 5, 2021. They will have a maximum of 65 minutes for this portion of the test. They will then take session 2 math and will have a maximum of 65 minutes for this portion of the test.

5th grade will take ELA Session 1 on April 22, 2021. They will have a maximum of 90 minutes to complete this portion of the test. They will take ELA Session 2 on April 23, 2021. They will have a maximum of 80 minutes to complete this portion of the test. They will take ELA Session 3 on April 23, 2021 .They will have a maximum of 80 minutes to complete this portion of the test. 5th grade will take Math session 1 on April 26, 2021. They will have a maximum of 65 minutes to complete this portion of the test. .They will take Math Session 2 on April 26, 2021. They will have a maximum of 65 minutes to complete this portion of the test. 5th grade will take Science Session 1 on April 27, 2021 with a maximum of 40 minutes to complete. They will then take Science Session 2 on April 27, 2021 with a maximum of 40 minutes to complete.

Dr. Bennett shared a “Tips for Parents and Students” handout as well. We will not know the scores until last day of school. We do not know when the students will get their results. They are not doing retests this year.

Virtual Learning Students can opt out from coming into the building to take the assessment. We have 80 distance learners. Five are taking the assessment. We understand anxiousness of taking test and of coming into a building you have not been in all year.

We will be utilizing parapros as proctors because no visitors are allowed in the building.

**Technology Instruction – Education Galaxy**

Students in grades K-5 are using Education Galaxy. They can go to the SSO portal link to get to Education Galaxy. Dr. Bennett provided a handout for parents on how to download Education Galaxy to their phone to see how their students are doing. The students enjoy this program. If they answer a question incorrectly, it will pop up a video to teach that skill to the student. If they score correctly, they will get to play a game. We paid about $5,000 for this program. It will be available to students over the summer. Students have answered 12,789 question this school year. That is 28 days 2 hours 44 minutes and 13 seconds of the school year.

Dr. Glover said that we are in limbo as to if we will purchase Education Galaxy or another program next year.

There are several uploaded videos and units on the Hilltop Website that parents can access.

PTO purchased Brainpop years ago. The school has purchased their own programs as well. Some teachers have also ventured out and used other technology. We are asking teachers if they want Education Galaxy. Another program some schools in the county are using is IReady that costs $20,000. We have already had two professional learning days with the Education Galaxy company.

**End of the Year Activities and Events**

How will parents know what is going on for the end of the year? We want a sense of normalcy for the parents and the kids. A calendar was handed out with the end of the year events listed.

We have new electronic water fountains where students can refill water bottles. However, we still have to buy water bottles for students who don’t bring them. If parents want to donate water bottles these will be appreciated.

We will have no Field Day, but we will have May Day. The office staff will be bringing back the 70s. We are having a 70s celebration on May 7th. We will have prepackaged items for students to purchase. If you have any questions about the calendar, call Mrs. Slane in the office.

**Celebrations**

Teaching is the most rewarding career. Sometimes not as inviting, welcoming, or highly paid. Nevertheless, teachers are compassionate and passionate about kids. It is ok to hire a teacher with skill, but the important thing is, does she have the heart? You can train the skill. We want the best in order to get the best.

Contact Mrs. Slane for helping with donations for Teacher Appreciation Day.

Dr. Glover recognized and thanked Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Moody, Mrs. Grieshop, and Ms. Haslett for helping with School Council with a gift.

**Closing**

Thank you for all you do.

Christie Baggett made the motion to close the meeting. Shannon Grieshop seconded the motion at 8:19 a.m.