**INDIAN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Site Base Council Meeting**

**August 15, 2016**

Members Present: Tonya Oakley, John Hallmark, Brandi Majors, and Marshall Adcock. Danielle Robinson was present by telephone conference. Also present was Matthew Francies.

Opening Business: Ms. Oakley called the meeting to order.

Minutes: The Minutes from the previous meeting on June 29, 2016 were presented. There was not a meeting held in July. Brandi Majors made a motion to approve the Minutes. John Hallmark seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Introduction of New Members: Ms. Oakley stated that she thought all of the members knew each other. She did introduce Assistant Principal/P.E. Teacher Matthew Francies, and stated that he may be attending the meetings from time to time. Other members of the staff and administration as well as from the community may attend the meetings sometimes also, so there will be an introduction if and when there are visitors.

Ms. Oakley also stated that we are going to have another site base election as we have to elect another parent representative who is a minority. Ms. Oakley stated that she was going to be contacting parents to see who might be willing to serve on the Council so that they could possibly be trained before the next meeting.

Policies and Bylaws: Ms. Oakley stated that the Council has had the Homework policy on the agenda for several months and that we need to establish a good homework policy for the new school year. She said that a lot of teachers were giving homework and all of the grades going into Infinite Campus were homework grades. A lot of kids were getting zeros because of homework. A lot of kids were losing recess because of homework. Ms. Oakley stated that she has had numerous conversations with people at the Central Office as well as teachers and other principals concerning homework policies in an effort to find the best way to deal with homework. Ms. Oakley said that she thinks homework is a good thing in that it teaches students responsibility, and it is good practice for when they get to middle and high school and college. However, she doesn't feel like an elementary student's grades should be based on homework because many of them are not responsible enough at that age to get the work done, and many do not have the support at home to help them with homework. Ms. Oakley stated that she feels like the homework that should be given is spelling words, reading and possibly a few math problems. She stated that research shows that the amount of homework given should be based on their grade level, such as 1st grade should have no more than 10 minutes; 2nd grade no more than 20 minutes, etc. She feels like some students are going home with hours of homework, and she has been addressing some of these issues with parents since last year. Ms. Oakley stated that she feels teachers should be using half of their time on instruction and the other half with the students practicing the skills they are learning with the teacher there to support and help them.

Ms. Oakley stated that the job of the Site Base Council is to decide how much homework is going to be given and how the homework grades will be figured into their overall grade. The Council also needs to decide what the consequences will be for not doing homework and turning it in. After much discussion among the Council members, it was decided that the appropriate amount of homework per grade level will be given to the students to take home on Monday, with it being due on Friday. For every grade given for homework, there must be two classroom assignment grades (2:1 ratio). The consequences for the first offense of not turning in homework would be that the student would lose one DoJo point and the teacher will call the students' parents to review the homework policy. For the second offense and subsequent offenses, the student would lose a DoJo point; the parents would receive a phone call to review the homework policy; and the student would receive one hour of after school detention (to be served within a 2 week time period), with the parent being responsible for transportation. Ms. Oakley is going to put this policy in writing for the Council members to approve within the next week and will hopefully have this policy in place by September 1, 2016.

Good News Reports: Ms. Oakley shared that there are a lot of good things going on in the school. She specifically mentioned the mural that has been painted on the wall in the 200 hall. She said there is a contest going on among the halls that runs until the end of the month to get the halls decorated with student work, bulletin boards, and other decorations to make our building more attractive.

It was mentioned by Council members that there is paint peeling off of the gutters and some ivy growing on the building and some general maintenance issues on the outside of the building that need to be addressed.

Ms. Oakley shared that there are a handful of behavior issues that she is dealing with, but that overall, it has been a good start for the school year. Mr. Adcock shared that it feels like a different school this year, and Ms. Majors agreed that the culture feels different. Ms. Oakley said that she has heard that comment from different people already (from district employees and parents), and she is very pleased. Mr. Hallmark shared that Bro. Ron Hicks from Henderson Memorial Baptist Church stopped him on the first day of school in the car pick up line and stated that he had been around the school for 13 years and that this year seemed to be the "smoothest first day of school" since he's been there. Ms. Cornell, who is one of our new 5th grade teachers and who has worked in several schools, told Ms. Oakley that she loves it here at Indian Hills and that this had been a very smooth start to the new year.

Budgets: The budgets were presented to the Council, and there was some discussion about them.

Master Schedule Proposal: Our Master Schedule was turned in to the Board of Education, and a copy has been provided to all Council members.

PBIS: Michelle Walden will share more about PBIS at a meeting, but this is up and running. We are teaching procedures and expectations, and the teachers and students are ready to start with content.

Policies: There were no new policies presented. At the next meeting, we will be presenting our Homework Policy for approval. We will also be developing policies on committees and extracurricular activities in the near future.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on September 19, 2016, at 2:30.

Adjourn: There being no further business, John Hallmark made a motion to adjourn. Marshall Adcock seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.