

GRATEFUL GATHERING November 4, 2020

Carrollton Farmers Branch Retired School Personnel Association Minutes

10:30 to 11:00—Members signed on to Zoom, facilitated by Lyn Abercrombie.

- Della Swaim called the meeting to order at 11:01.

Della Swaim greeted members, and Lori Smith introduced and recognized new member as well as Shaima Hakimi who introduced new member Anita Shepherd.

- Lori Smith led the members in the pledges.
- Della Swaim shared a former C-FB student success story about McKenzie Starr who represents the quality of education students receive at C-FB ISD. McKenzie is a junior at Texas A&M and has interned at Motorola and the Whitehouse.

Speaker Presentation: The State of the School District

- Pat Enlow introduced Dr. John Chapman, Superintendent of C-FB ISD.

Dr. Chapman reviewed the timeline of how the district responded to COVID19 from March until the current date and the district's ongoing response to COVID 19. When schools were closed in March the district partnered with Dallas County and their medical specialist Dr. Wong who continues to direct the safety and medical protocols for the district. Fortunately, C-FB already had an electro-static cleaning system before the COVID19 outbreak. Dr. Chapman explained that the schools first went to virtual learning on March 16 until the end of the school year. The first 3 weeks of the new school year was only distance learning. On September 8 students could choose to learn remotely or return to campus. Students continue to choose their learning preference by nine week grading periods, but that is flexible, given the virus. He then shared some of the impacts due to COVID 19. There have been 50,000 no shows for school in Texas. C-FB had 2% of its students as no-shows. They implemented a Welcome Team to locate these students, even visiting homes. Currently because of this team, there are only 537, down from the original 2% of the district's total students. Current Data for COVID infection rate has the district never at more than 1%. The in class numbers have grown from 49% to 58%. The district has applied for a 6.5 million reimbursement from the CARES ACT to cover costs. One of their biggest problems is tracking and quarantining of the cases. Abott labs will assist C-FB in doing the district's own testing. Some of ways they are supporting teachers: new laptops, Promethean Boards and docking stations, a bonus check in November, deployed administrators to each campus to help, raised pay for part time staff, hired more counselors, added technology hot spots and tech support, pay staff who have COVID for sick days through the "sick bank." Other support the district has provided for the students and families of C-FB are: night time counseling, 1 million meals served from March to August, and partnered with other agencies which include Giving House, Samaritan Purse. All students have chrome books and hot spots for access to the online curriculum as well as technical support.

Future Plans: Dr. Chapman stated that they know students are falling behind in math, reading, and writing skills. He will ask the state to give the STARR test this spring, so they can have an accurate measure of learning issues, but not have the test count towards evaluating a school district. Another plan is to provide a means of tutoring these students who need help. Also, the high schools will have more programs with a certification like flower design and construction to be more competitive. Another future plan is to offer more dual credit courses.

Dr. Chapman then answered questions posed by the attendees. Questions were asked concerning how our members could help support teachers. He directed the members to the Adopt a teacher program and to consider tutoring with the district providing a brush-up training on reading, writing, and math skills for retired teachers who would be interested.

- Door Prize Drawing. Debbie Moss drew a name for the door prize that was won by Sally Cramer.
- Lee Nitcholis asked members to let her Nomination Committee know if you are interested in being an officer.
- Della adjourned the meeting at 12: 25 pm.

Darcy Perreault, Secretary

Della Swaim, President

Date approved