**Meeting Rationale**

FSWC – Lee is a small school with lots of integrated and moving parts. Our parent organizations (Florida SouthWestern State College and the Lee County School District both operate as outside entities and are dependable sources of support and structure. In relation to the LCSD, we are an independent Charter School and function as a sub division of the School of Education at FSW (SoE). These positions are advantageous to us as we remain operationally free to do what is best for students, staff, and our general school community. While there is a formal structure of meeting almost every other Tuesday as a full group, submitting our meeting minutes to the College’s Document Manager, and meeting regularly with the Dean of the SoE, this structure is not the driving force for excellence. Student needs are best met through the spirit of innovation, self-directedness, cooperation, and shared decision-making that permeates the culture here. The results of this methodology speak for themselves in terms of academic achievement, climate surveys, and the annual excess demand for seats during our open enrollment lottery.

What follows are the meeting minutes and summaries of our designated time(s) together but they do not happen in a vacuum. Sometimes they sound like an agenda and are published before hand, other times they are presented as a summary of what happened. Lunchtimes in the staff lounges, group chats via cell phone, teachers teaming up with each other, ideas from the Principal, un-expected student needs, world events☺, all get managed with the strength of a unified staff. There is an un-written expectation that decisions that will affect multiple people or groups of students require everyone involved to be present. This builds a sense of team while encouraging independent thinking and cooperation at the same time.

**FSWC-Lee Collegiate High School**

**Meeting Minutes**

7/21/2020

The below went to 9th and 10th grade families today…..

*Hello families,*

*What a different world we are in since we were saying good bye to students for Spring Break last year.  I won’t pretend to have all the answers because more and more “an answer today is a new set of questions for tomorrow.”  However I do want to give you some updates and help settle some basic questions I imagine many of you have.  The questions and answers below are valid given today’s date and circumstances.  If at any time there is significant departure from this guidance, we will communicate that to you.*

*What about the first day of school for 9th and 10th grade students?*

* *Right now that start date is in flux as we are bound to the LCSD annual calendar.  Please watch the media for updates and I will provide information when it is firm.*

*How will FSWC - Lee operate when school starts?*

* *Many of you have heard reference to the now controversial Executive Order to open all brick and mortar schools for 5 days a week with full service for all students.  Despite wide ranging opinions, legal challenges, & local health data, that is what FSWC – Lee is mandated to do.  Given this reality, we are making plans to maximize safety for staff and students while providing face to face instruction.  Included precautions are face masks for both staff and students, hand sanitizer stations around the building, one way traffic during transitions, maximized social distancing where possible (3 outdoor classroom areas are available as is the cafeteria to help spread out during class), water bottle fillers have replaced drinking fountains, and students are encouraged to bring their own computer each day so we don’t need to share.  Hospital grade disinfecting products are used by our professional cleaning staff daily and will be available in classrooms during the day as needed.  Additionally, staff are mindful that absences will happen so each class is being developed with remote availability through Canvas.  This is not to be a substitute for daily attendance but a resource for if and when absence is necessary.  We also have various bell schedules and will consider block scheduling as a way to minimize the number of contacts and transitions on any given day.*

*What options do families have if they are uncomfortable with the plan presented above?*

* *FSWC – Lee is a small charter school with a specific purpose of preparing students for early college using engaging classroom activities.  Science labs, engineering projects, collaborative art work, class discussions, applied math work, assessments of student learning, as well as building a school wide culture that promotes creativity and compassion (in addition to critical thinking, communication, and collaboration) are nearly impossible to replicate in a fully virtual environment.  For families who want to fore-go face to face instruction during this pandemic, you are free to return to the LCSD and select one of their available options with the assurance that we will hold your seat through this academic year.  In short, if you choose to withdraw for now you can return (as capacity and COVID considerations allow) at either the semester or next academic year.  If you prefer another option for Fall of 2020, please simply communicate that to us via email and we will honor your choice.  This is a difficult decision to make and we want to remain focused on providing the best possible experience and remain your partner through graduation.  If you plan on returning to face to face instruction with us, no action is needed.*

*Will FSWC – Lee close, return to virtual instruction, or change their plans?*

* *My only answer is…no way to know this information.  As of today, we are committed to a successful return to what you all signed up for last year during the lottery process.  We are legally bound to follow state and local guidance as related to closures and all issues related to public health.  I can only promise to keep you informed as things develop, I just don’t have a crystal ball to foresee all the possibilities.*

*What should you do with any remaining text books you had from last year?*

* *Thanks for asking ….we need those books back ASAP (if at all possible before August 7th) and you can drop them off in the front office at a dedicated cart.  All you need to do is stop by the school between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. between Monday and Thursday and either label the books or simply tell Ms. Naylor who’s books your returning from the doorway and your off and running.*

*What sort of paperwork can I expect from the school?*

* *As of the date of this writing, enrollment packets for both rising Junior and rising Senior students have been mailed and are due back to us by August 14th.  Freshmen and Sophomore packets will be produced and mailed during the week of July 27th when we have an established start date  Primary communication with families after the packet is returned will be through email messages and Canvas announcements.  This packet will have a hard due date and non-return of the packet can result in loss of your seat for this term.*

*What sort of shopping or back to school list do we need?*

* *Normally, this is a high priority and lots of thought goes into the answer.  This year the larger questions have pushed this planning back so as teacher’s firm up their plans, we will communicate the details.  In general; notebooks and writing utensils are a given.  Each student should have a water bottle with a lid and whenever possible a laptop computer (we have units for loan as needed and can make those arrangements with families privately).  Reliable internet service at home and school appropriate clothing are self-explanatory.  Masks (not fishing buffs or bandanas) are required.*

*Best wishes and stay healthy as we wrap up the summer!*

*B. Botts*