

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
November 19, 2015

**MINUTES**

The School Advisory Council for Gifford Middle School was called to order by Chairperson Betty VanHest at 3:15 p.m., on Thursday, November 19, 2015, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

Members Present: Betty VanHest, Chairperson  
Roxanne Decker, Principal  
Theresa Bounassi, Vice Chairperson  
Beth Stanley  
Juliana McGuire  
Rebecca Vilardi  
Melissa Sleeper

Members Absent: Patrece Bagley  
Jenny Cummings  
Tammy King  
Sherina Phillips  
Tpring Asencio  
Liz Riley

Guests: Megan Ruggiero  
Chris Taylor  
Trey Olmstead, student  
Sam Buckley, student  
Wilson Murphy, student

Mrs. VanHest welcomed everyone and presented the minutes from the October 15, 2015, meeting for review and approval. The minutes were amended to delete Megan Ruggiero's appointment to Secretary/Treasurer as well as Melissa Sleeper was changed to Rebecca Vilardi as seconding motion. Minutes were then unanimously approved.

**Election of Officers:**

Mrs. VanHest asked for volunteers to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for SAC. Beth Stanley volunteered to serve. Theresa Bounassi made a motion to elect Beth Stanley. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

**Mr. Chris Taylor on assessment and accountability**

Chris Taylor from assessment and accountability spoke about Sunshine Laws and the responsibility of the SAC committee. Also, he spoke about the FSA scores, he explained the percentiles and how to interpret the score. He stated by January the scores will be released by the state. He further went on to explain what the Florida Standards are what would demonstrate mastery of those standards. Mr. Taylor also went over all of the acronyms and what they meant. These were also included in the packet of information he had furnished to SAC. He then explained benchmarks and the part they play in the students schooling. Mr. Taylor also covered that the ELA reading/writing test are now combined and what kinds of questions may be included. Explained all exams through high school, how the EOC and students grades will be averaged, 35%, 35%, 20%, but does not yet know what the 1-5 score given by the state will equate to. He further discussed how to access the practice tests on [pearsonaccess.com](http://pearsonaccess.com), and that the practice attempts were unlimited. Reading and math assessment practice was located at [fsassessments.org](http://fsassessments.org). He encouraged parents to have their students practice. Mr. Taylor finished speaking at 3:59 pm.

**Request for organizing a robotics building tournament at Gifford middle school.**

Ms. Sleeper explained, students could not participate in the state tournament and that they would like permission to invite students from all around the district to be involved. The students demonstrated the project and explained how the program would work. They explained that an entry fee would be charged to each student who participates. Mrs. Decker asked if the entry fee will cover the cost of materials and prizes, Ms. Sleeper confirmed yes. She also expressed that she is writing a grant for more materials. Ms. Sleeper expressed that this would be set up mainly for practice. No SAC money is needed. Mrs. Vilardi made a motion to further investigate the possibility of holding this event at Gifford Middle School. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

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**Unified Dress Policy:**

Ms. Heppern reviewed the information that had been presented by Ms. Ruggiero during the October SAC meeting. She then presented the possible unified dress code. There were a few minor color changes including removing the white bottoms and changing the shirts to allow for any color polo style shirt with sleeves. It was announced that it would be presented that night at 6:15 p.m. for all parents that attend. Beth Stanley made a motion to approve the unified dress code. Mrs. Vilardi seconded the motion. Motion passed

**Mrs. Decker's request for funds:**

Mrs. Decker was requesting funds totaling \$1,046.51 from the SAC account for school improvements including signage for both the media center as well as the front of the school. Mrs. Vilardi made a motion to grant Mrs. Decker the funds. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mrs. VanHest noted that the next SAC meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2015.

Rebecca Vilardi made a motion to adjourn the motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by Megan Ruggiero