

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 21, 2016

The Student Advisory Council for Gifford Middle School met on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 3:15 p.m., in the Media Center. Attendees included: Roxanne Decker, Principal, B.J. Van Hest, Liz Riley, Theresa Bounassi, Jennifer Cummings, Christina DeFalco, Tpring Asencio, Rebecca Vilardi, Mr. Martin and Beth Stanley.

Those not in attendance:

Mrs. Decker welcomed everyone and requested if we could adjust the meeting's agenda to include Mr. Martin, a Gifford Middle School history teacher who was serving as the chair for the faculty council. B.J. Van Hest made a motion to adjust the meeting agenda and it was seconded by Theresa Bounassi, and all approved.

Mr. Martin discussed the Florida School Recognition Program Awards for 2015-2016. There was a handout from The Florida Department of Education that clearly defined the funds to be allocated based on school grades.

Mrs. Decker excitedly reported that Gifford Middle School improved a letter grade from a "C" to a "B" rating. The allocated amount has yet to be determined. B.J. Van Hest made a motion to approve the spending plan. Mrs. Vilardi seconded the motion, all in favor.

Mrs. DeFalco, LifeSkills Training Coordinator at Gifford Middle School, spoke regarding initiatives in place to educate children and their parents on underage drinking. Mrs. DeFalco provided literature outlining statistics on teen drinking. In addition, she discussed initiative called; Hey Parent. My teen isn't allowed to drink alcohol. There is a pledge that parents can take to show support of no alcohol being served in homes to under age teens. Parents can go to: www.nooneshouse.com to take the pledge. It has been reported that 80% of children are drinking at home or at the home of a friend. Mrs. DeFalco offered to speak at anyone's home, if they were interested in gathering a group of parents to hear what she has to share about underage drinking and drug abuse.

In addition, Mrs. DeFalco mentioned that March 4, 2016 is going to be career day and dress for success. She is working on a sundown (Friday) into all day Saturday, where students and families "unplug" the electronics and take a break from the artificial energy. Recommends that students journal what good came from this activity. She is planning a trip to St. Augustine to visit Flagler University and surrounding area. Trip will be for 8th graders. Details will follow.

Principal, Roxanne Decker, suggested the committee review the handout, 2016-17 GMS Site Visit for Needs Assessments. Mrs. Van Hest mentioned that #5 on the list, remodel the service lines (cafeteria) is efficient and visually appealing. T. Ascencio said #5 should be moved to a higher priority on the list, perhaps #2.

Mrs. Cummings had a question re: #3 on the list re: the marquee/signage being moved to 28th court. Mrs. Decker said it would better signify the parent loop.

B.J. Van Hest made a motion to approve the list. Mrs. Vilardi approved and Liz Riley seconded that motion.

Principal's report given by Roxanne Decker. She mentioned the problem on 5 occasions where the school nurse had to tend to student's toes because of open toed shoes and getting their toenails stepped on. Mrs. Decker asked if it should be on the ballot to change the dress code to include; closed toe shoes. Mrs. Cummings felt the number of students negatively impacted (5) didn't warrant changing the code and suggested we keep the district policy of having a strap behind the heel.

GMS is turning 20 years old. If any community members want to contribute to a timeline of historical events. Mr. Adam's picture is currently on the media center wall and the school wants to fill that wall with pictures, etc. Goal is: March 14, 2016. Pep rally to unveil the time line.

Project Lead the Way is "under way." It has begun for 6th graders. CSI unit and the sheriff's dept. will bring hands on activities.

Sharing: Theresa Bounassi said she put pictures up relating to PLW.

Question posed, why no 8th grade graduation ceremony at GMS? Mrs. Decker explained we have an 8th grade dance celebration and that graduation is a rite of passage and is celebrated next at the High School level. Discussion about forming a committee to organize a potential 8th grade graduation.

Mrs. Cummings thanked T. Ascensio for offering her flute!

T. Ascensio thanked the committee for considering moving the cafeteria issue up to a higher priority on the list of need assessments.

Next S.A.C. meeting: Feb. 18, 2016, at 3:15 p.m. in the media center.

Mrs. Cummings made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Theresa Bounassi seconded that motion. All in favor.