

# **GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

February 23, 2017

## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The School Advisory Council (SAC) for Gifford Middle School was called to order by Chairman Paul Tomlinson at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2017, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Tomlinson, Chair  
Roxanne Decker, Principal  
Theresa Bounassi  
Jennifer Cummings  
Michelle Murphy  
Debra Schroeder  
Willie Shelly

**GUESTS:** Megan Ruggiero  
Christina DeFalco

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Amber Aracena  
Donald Hart  
Daesy Soto

### **MINUTES**

Jennifer Cummings moved to approve the December Minutes as presented. Roxanne Decker seconded, and the motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Unified Dress Code

Mrs. Decker introduced Megan Ruggiero, GMS Reading Teacher, to share information about Unified Dress Code. Ms. Ruggiero told the SAC members that Florida State statute requires that SAC identify a need and approve of a dress code before the issue can be presented to the school families for a vote. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on the pros and cons of a unified dress code. Consensus among the SAC members is that there is a need for a unified dress code at Gifford Middle School. The SAC members then discussed the need for a clothes closet, and there was agreement about the fact that running it would have to be a cooperative

effort between the PTSA and the school staff. Michelle Murphy moved that SAC has identified the need for a Unified Dress Code and wants to readdress implementing a Unified Dress Code, effective at the start of the 2017-18 school year. Theresa Bounassi seconded, and the motion carried. Paul Tomlinson moved to survey teachers to determine whether they will support a unified dress code. Jennifer Cummings seconded, and the motion carried.

#### Substance Abuse Free Indian River (SAFIR)

Mrs. Decker introduced Mrs. Christina DeFalco of Substance Abuse Free Indian River (SAFIR). Mrs. DeFalco thanked SAC for GMS' strong support for Life Skills, teaching students to live a healthy, safe, and substance-free life. Surveys of Indian River County students indicate that 85% of our students are making good choices. Arrest rates and criminal recidivism have decreased.

#### **PRINCIPAL'S UPDATES**

- Science Fair: Congratulations to the GMS students who placed in the District's Science Fair.
- Fact Checker: Please check out *Fact Checker* on the District Website which is being used to clarify and/or correct inaccuracies reported by the press. SAC members would like the School District to be more aggressive in defending GMS. Specifically, more information about inclusion and the requirements of the 1976 IDEA law should be placed on *Fact Checker*.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES**

- Gifted Update: Although the enrollment in the gifted classes is strong, we are always open to increasing the number of advanced students and adding more diversity to the program. Parents or school staff who want to recommend a student be screened should contact the Guidance Office.

#### **PTSA NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

- Mrs. Murphy has sent the March issue of the school newsletter, *Dolphin Dispatch*, to press. It includes information about test-taking strategies and upcoming events.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Landscaping: Mrs. Bounassi continues to work with *Coast-to-Coast Landscaping* and hopes the landscaping of the median along the front of the school will be completed next week. The Royal Poinciana to be planted will be orange to align with the school colors of teal and orange.

**NEXT MEETING**

SAC was not originally scheduled to hold a meeting in March; however, SAC will meet on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m. (Location: TBA) to review results of the survey to teachers gauging support for a Unified Dress Code and to determine the next steps.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Jennifer Cummings moved to adjourn. Michelle Murphy seconded, and the motion carried. Chairman Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debra Schroeder*

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GMS Language Arts Teacher