

# SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 22, 2016

## MINUTES

The School Advisory Council (SAC) for Gifford Middle School was called to order by Chair Paul Tomlinson at 3:25 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2016, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

Members Present: Paul Tomlinson, Chair  
Roxanne Decker, Principal  
Amber Aracena  
Theresa Bounassi  
Michelle Murphy  
Debra Schroeder  
Willie Shelly  
Daesy Soto

Members Absent: Jennifer Cummings (excused)  
Donald Hart (excused)  
Tashica Taylor (excused)

Mrs. Decker reported that Allison Frankenberger has respectfully resigned from SAC.

### Minutes

The Minutes of the August 25, 2016 SAC Meeting were amended to reflect the names of those who made and seconded motions:

- Ms. Cummings moved and Ms. Bounassi seconded that the Minutes of the May 19, 2016 meeting be approved as presented.
- Mr. Hart moved and Ms. Cummings seconded to remove the request to fund Write Score in the 2016-2017 school year.
- Ms. Bounassi moved and Mr. Hart seconded to table the funding of Dolphin Days prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.
- Ms. Cummings moved and Mr. Hart seconded the expenditure of \$4,000 on after-school buses and \$2,000 for subs so that teachers can participate in Teaching Triangles.

The Minutes were corrected to reflect the correct amount for annual PTSA membership dues - \$10.

Ms. Bounassi moved to approve the Minutes as amended and corrected. Ms. Murphy seconded, and the motion carried.

### Principal's Updates

- Mrs. Decker reported that the SDIRC Millage Referendum, which was on the August 30, 2016 ballot, passed. This is a discretionary property tax at a rate of 0.50 mils which will replace the existing voter approved 0.60 millage that expires June 30, 2017. These funds will be used by the school district to retain high quality teachers, purchase technology and support infrastructure, and implement and maintain Career and Technical Programs. Mrs. Decker said that passage of the Millage Referendum will allow the School District to fund the purchase of computers for Vex Robotics, part of the GMS Project Lead the Way (PLTW).
- FINSUnity events have been scheduled as a way to encourage increased participation among the school and community. Tonight, PTSA will provide a hot-dog dinner and families are asked to bring side dishes or desserts. The next event will be the October 14 Culture Fest.

- Concerned about the significant achievement gap between African American students and others, the School District has developed an African American Success Plan to improve academic achievement and promote diversity. GMS has recently identified students to move into advanced/gifted courses. All teachers will participate in a Cultural Competencies course this year. SDIRC is also seeking to increase staff diversity.

### Chair Updates

- Mr. Tomlinson reported that there have been several meetings involving administrators, Department Chairs, and faculty to review the results of last spring's *Parent Survey* and stated that a new bathroom pass system has been instituted this year, designed to promote a safe environment and to increase student time-on-task. Ms. Aracena questioned whether the school is addressing survey question #27 regarding serving lunches that are nutritious and taste good. She also questioned whether students eating school lunch were receiving enough food to fill them up. After discussion, Mrs. Decker said she would invite the GMS Cafeteria Manager, Ms. Brady, to the October SAC meeting.
- Copies of the updated School Improvement Plan (SIP) were distributed. Mr. Tomlinson reminded members that discussion last month focused on school goals and asked SAC members to review the document, especially the updated Implementation Timeline. Mrs. Decker moved to adopt the GMS 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan. Ms. Aracena seconded, and the motion carried.

### PTSA Newsletter Update

- Ms. Murphy reported that the October newsletter has been printed and will be distributed within the next few days..

### Old Business

- Budget. While acknowledging that requests for SAC funds exceed the amount on hand and the uncertainty of whether the State of Florida will fund SAC in 2016-2017, Ms. Aracena expressed concern that science teachers may not have the funds to buy materials for labs, specifically dissection labs. Mrs. Decker stated that teachers may petition SAC for funds, may apply to the Indian River County Education Foundation for grants, or apply for other grants.
- Safety Hazard. Mrs. Decker and Ms. Bounassi have both contacted the Traffic Department about the safety hazard that exists because there are not double yellow lines on 28<sup>th</sup> Court in front of Gifford Middle School and the Alternative Center for Education. SAC members are encouraged to call the Traffic Department at 772.226.3460 and ask that the safety of students be reviewed at Gifford Middle School, 4530 28<sup>th</sup> Court, Vero Beach. The School Advisory Council (SAC) may also invite other members of the school and community to contact authorities, hoping to improve safety conditions along 28<sup>th</sup> Court.

### New Business

- Meeting Dates. Members agreed to meet at 3:15 p.m. in the GMS Media Center on the fourth Thursday of the month, except when that date falls on a non-school day. Meetings for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year will be held on:
  - ❖ October 27, 2016
  - ❖ December 8, 2016                   \*NOTE: This is the second Thursday of the month.
  - ❖ January 26, 2017
  - ❖ February 23, 2017
  - ❖ April 27, 2017
- Casual for a Cause. Superintendent Rendell continues to promote *Casual for a Cause* throughout the School District. Students and staff are invited to donate \$1 and dress casually once each month. All proceeds are then donated to a different charity each month.

- Supporting the American Cancer Society. Proceeds from *Casual for a Cause* for the month of October 2016 will support the American Cancer Society. Mrs. Decker reported that there is a long-standing competition among schools across our district to raise money to benefit the American Cancer Society and participate in Relay for Life. For the past seven years, Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Hand and her team have been the top fund-raisers. GMS also participates at Relay for Life, and all school families are welcome.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Murphy moved to adjourn and Mrs. Decker seconded the motion. The motion carried and Chairman Tomlinson adjourned the SAC meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debra Schroeder*

Debra Schroeder

GMS Language Arts Teacher