

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

October 27, 2016

MINUTES

The School Advisory Council (SAC) for Gifford Middle School was called to order by Chair Paul Tomlinson at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2016, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

Members Present: Paul Tomlinson, Chair
Roxanne Decker, Principal
Amber Aracena
Theresa Bounassi
Jennifer Cummings
Donald Hart
Michelle Murphy
Debra Schroeder
Willie Shelly

Members Absent: Daesy Soto
Tashica Taylor

Minutes

Donald Hart moved to approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2016 SAC Meeting as presented. Roxanne Decker seconded, and the motion carried.

Guests

- Gifford Middle School's Media Specialist, Jeena Lakins, addressed the SAC to request funding for Accelerated Reader (AR). This program has been funded by the School District previously, but the secondary schools were notified just prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year that AR is no longer being provided by the School District. Based on the fact that there are fewer reading classes this year and a notable decline in the number of books being checked-out of the library, Mrs. Lakins expressed concern about whether students will be encouraged to pursue reading for pleasure, which is both an important skill and habit for life-long learning. In the short-term, she also noted that without opportunity for regular, sustained reading, students may lack the reading stamina and the focus to perform at optimal levels during FSA testing.
- Elizabeth Dykes, SDIRC Dietician and Elaine Brege, GMS Cafeteria Manager, came as a follow-up to questions that were raised last month about the lunch program. Ms. Dykes explained that the School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) participates in the National School Lunch program which requires that calories, sodium, and fat be monitored, while also ensuring that lunches provide protein, greens, vegetables, fruit, and milk. SDIRC uses a two-week cycle menu.

Principal's Updates

- **Benchmark Data:** The administrative staff is meeting with faculty to examine and analyze the data. Initial results show ELA scores across the School District at 65% and GMS ELA scores at 67%. Math scores across the District are at 46%, and math scores at GMS are at 40%. A new system, UNIFY, has been implemented which will track student data. As a next step, GMS teachers will be working in their departments to create mini-batts, a short five-question assessment on one standard, designed to evaluate the level of student mastery on specific standard. This information will help teachers determine which students show mastery of a standard and which students need additional teaching and/or practice.
- **Naviance:** Beginning this school year, students will use the Naviance program to assist in college and career planning. Beginning in sixth grade and continuing through high school, this program will fulfill a high school requirement. Currently, the GMS guidance counselors are meeting with students during social studies classes. Students are told to access Naviance weekly or bi-weekly. They can complete an Interest Profile online.
- **African American Success Plan:** This year, one of the Professional Development requirements is for all faculty to participate in a CANVAS course on *Cultural Competencies*. The program includes seven modules with information presented via text and video. Teachers will complete some of the work online and also includes face-to-face discussion at faculty meetings on some of the half-days scheduled for professional development.
- **Teacher of the Year:** Congratulations to 8th grade ELA teacher Liz Peterson, Gifford's Teacher of the Year!
- **Employee of the Year:** Congratulations to our GMS Cafeteria Manager, Elaine Brege, Employee of the Year!
- **Project Lead the Way:** Robotic Kits have been ordered for 8th grade!

Chair Updates

- **Gifted Class Updates:** As part of the African American Success Plan, GMS has identified several high-achieving students and invited them to enroll in the gifted classes in an effort to include a more diverse student population in the gifted/advanced classes.

PTSA Newsletter Update: Mrs. Michelle Murphy reported that the November newsletter has been printed and will be distributed within the next week. It includes a *Spotlight on Social Studies* since our students will participate in a mock election. All GMS students will have an opportunity to vote on November 7-8, 2016. The November Newsletter also includes information about the Student Council Food Drive.

Old Business

- **Painting of Double Center Line on 28th Court:** Mrs. Decker reported that the repainting of the center line on 28th Court has been scheduled and the work is expected to be completed prior to the end of the year.

New Business

- Members of SAC expressed concern about student safety at the front of the school during afternoon dismissal. Is it possible to have a flashing light installed on the crosswalk sign at the intersection where students are crossing the street? Will the Sheriff's Department post a car at dismissal to better ensure that drivers are not behaving illegally and/or placing students at risk?

- SAC members expressed concern that there have been several reports of boys being threatened while in the bathroom. Mrs. Decker explained that we have a new system in place to ensure that students are using the bathroom closest to the classroom they leave so students should not be wandering around the campus. Students are encouraged to report any threats to the teacher who can call for an administrator to check what is happening in a bathroom.

Adjournment

Mrs. Bounassi moved to adjourn. Mrs. Cummings 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, grades 6-8

SAC Secretary