

# Gifford Middle School

## School Advisory Council

(SAC)

December 8, 2016

## MINUTES

The School Advisory Council (SAC) for Gifford Middle School was called to order by Chairman Paul Tomlinson at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2016, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

**Members Present:** Paul Tomlinson, Chair  
Roxanne Decker, GMS Principal  
Theresa Bounassi  
Jennifer Cummings  
Michelle Murphy  
Debra Schroeder  
Willie Shelly

**Members Absent:** Daesy Soto  
Donald Hart  
Amber Aracena (excused)  
Tashica Tay

### Minutes

Jennifer Cummings moved to approve the Minutes of the October 27, 2016 Gifford Middle School SAC Meeting as presented. Theresa Bounassi seconded, and the motion carried.

### Guests

- Kim Graham, of the Road and Bridge Department, addressed the School Advisory Council (SAC) about the recent refurbishing of pavement markings along 28<sup>th</sup> Court. She explained that there is a federal document that outlines required signage, color, crosswalk, and pavement markings. Members of the GMS SAC expressed appreciation for the recent upgrades that followed telephone calls from Mrs. Decker and SAC members expressing safety concerns about student dismissal from school each afternoon.
- GMS Guidance Counselors Ivonne Ferraro and Eathel Hart talked about the new Naviance College and Career Planning program that has been introduced this year. Counselors will meet with students eight times during the school year; three sessions

have already been completed. Naviance will build each year, in grades 6-12, helping students determine academic and career goals. Students can complete interest surveys, take virtual tours of colleges, and research careers, colleges, and scholarships. Students may access Naviance from home and are encouraged to log-in weekly. As high school seniors, students will be able to request transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, and apply online to colleges.

### **Principal's Updates**

- *Restorative Justice* Circles were conducted during all science classes on December 8, 2016. The theme for this session was respect.
- The *PBS Santa Store* will be open before school, from 7:25 – 8:00 a.m., before Winter Break, December 19-21, 2016.
- Faculty across the school district are currently enrolled in a *Cultural Competencies* course which includes both online and face-to-face sessions. The first two modules have been completed.
- The *Project Lead the Way Robotics* unit will begin in the second semester. Piper employees will assist our GMS science teachers. SDIRC is purchasing new computers (\$17,000) to meet the required software requirements so that students have the materials to work successfully.
- Participation in the GMS Science Fair was strong, with many students participating. Forty-nine projects will advance to next level, the District Science Fair, sponsored by the Indian River Education Foundation.
- GMS will participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade, but we still need a truck or trailer to lead our group.
- Eighth grade Language Arts teacher Rhonda Asselin is serving as sponsor of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS).

### **Chairman's Updates**

- Mr. Tomlinson worked with the Indian River County Office of Elections to hold a school-wide *mock presidential election*. In November, all students had an opportunity to cast a ballot in social studies classes. Hillary Clinton won by a slight margin.
- GMS students are participating in *Academic Games*. Sixth grader William Dunlap tied for First Place in the Elementary Division of Linguistics while Dylan Goldfarb and Anthony Ragano tied for second place in the Middle Division. Zachary Hessler, William Dunlap, and Thomas Miller placed in the Elementary Division for Equations. GMS students dominated the Middle Division Equations competitions with Drew Baudo, Dylan Goldfarb, and Owen Stanton tying for first place, while Matthew Borne placed second and Grace Murphy placed third. The third and final series of competitions will begin in January and include social studies topics: Current Events, Presidents #24-44, and the Civil War.

- The School Science Fair was held on November 16 and included 85 projects. Forty-nine projects will now move on to the next level, the SDIRC Science Fair, sponsored by the Indian River Education Foundation.

### **PTSA Newsletter Update**

- Michelle Murphy reported that the December/January *newsletter* was distributed today. It includes study tips, which will be helpful as students prepare for Mid-term Exams, scheduled for December 15-20, 2016, before Winter Break.
- Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Decker will discuss implementing *Simply Circle* next year. This is an e-mail program currently in use at Osceola Magnet School that offers another way to reach out and communicate with school families.

### **New Business**

- Tashica Taylor has accepted a position that prevents her from serving on SAC.
- Theresa Bounassi is working on a new landscape design for the 375' median in front of the school parent loop. Coast-to-Coast Landscaping will donate the labor. The palms will stay, but drought tolerant, low-lying plants will be added. Mrs. Bounassi is seeking donations to pay for the new plants.
- Mrs. Bounassi asked members of SAC to investigate *Sandy Hook Promise*, a national non-profit founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. Sandy Hook Promise offers research-based programs and practices to help protect children from gun violence in homes, schools, and communities.

### **Next Meeting**

The next GMS SAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 3:15 p.m. in the GMS Media Center.

Michelle Murphy moved to adjourn. Theresa Bounassi seconded, and the motion carried. Paul Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debra Schroeder*

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GMS Language Arts Teacher, grades 6-8

SAC Secretary

