

GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 14, 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 Tuesday, March 14, 2017, in the Gifford Middle School Administrative Conference Room.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amber Aracena
Donald Hart
Daesy Soto

MINUTES

Theresa Bounassi moved to table approval of the February Minutes until the next SAC Meeting in April 2017. Jennifer Cummings seconded, and the motion carried.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATES

- Mrs. Decker reminded members of the *Fact Checker* which has been added to the SDIRC website and encourages members of our school community, as well as the public, to refer to it to verify the accuracy of information reported by the press.
- A group of approximately twelve (12) parents who currently have children at Beachland Elementary School came to tour Gifford Middle School and met with Mrs. Decker. Mrs. Sleeper spoke to the group about the *GMS Project Lead the Way* and other science opportunities and Ms. Kostick addressed the issue of inclusion, a federal requirement under the IDEA legislation. The parents told Mrs. Decker that they support GMS and look forward to having their students join the GMS Dolphin family next year.
- On Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., GMS will host “The Power of Our Stories.” Working in partnership with the Learning Alliance’s Moonshot Moment and Michele Holiday of Jones Temple Lord of Jesus Christ Church, this Literacy Festival will be a free family event featuring story-telling, a poetry slam, and a “book tasting.”

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES

- Mr. Tomlinson reported that there will be four meetings set this spring so that small groups of about ten parents per session can meet with GMS teachers and a District ESE Resource Specialist to update each gifted student's Educational Plan (EP) before students move to the high school. The updated EP will include the student's goals for high school. Although there are no gifted classes at the high school, students will still receive consultative services via the SDIRC Department of Exceptional Student Education.
- Although most of the gifted classes are full, teachers and parents are always encouraged to contact the GMS Guidance Department if they believe a current or incoming student should be screened/evaluated for the gifted program.

PTSA NEWSLETTER UPDATE

- Mrs. Murphy is currently compiling the April issue of the school newsletter, *Dolphin Dispatch*. It will be published and distributed during the first week of April 2017.
- The April issue of the newsletter will include a notice about the change in out-of-zone waiver policy; effective fall 2017, there will no longer be out-of-zone waivers. Students may attend a school of their choice, if space permits; however, parents will be responsible for transporting children to and from an out-of-zone school. School Choice Forms must be completed by March 29, 2017.

OLD BUSINESS

Landscaping Update – Mrs. Bounassi reported that the \$1,285 landscaping project along the parking loop is being paid for with 100% parent donations. Plantings and mulch cost \$735 and a Royal Poinciana tree will cost \$450. Thanks to *Coast-to-Coast Landscaping* for their generous assistance with the design and donation of labor. Round-up will be sprayed to reduce weeds and a Royal Poinciana tree will be installed soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Unified Dress Code – Mrs. Decker reported that the results of a survey sent to faculty about support for a Unified Dress Code was overwhelmingly positive. Roxanne Decker moved to accept the revised Dress Code Ballot. Jennifer Cummings seconded, and the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next SAC Meeting will be on April 27 at 3:15 p.m. in the GMS Media Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Cummings moved to adjourn. Michelle Murphy seconded, and the motion carried. Chairman Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Schroeder
Debra Schroeder
GMS Language Arts Teacher