

# **GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## *SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL*

May 18, 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, May 18, 2017, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

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

**GUEST:** Jeena Lakins, GMS Media Specialist

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Donald Hart  
Daesy Soto

#### **MINUTES**

Michelle Murphy noted an error in the April 27, 2017 Minutes. Under NEW BUSINESS, the deadline to return ballots for the Unified Dress Code was 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28, 2017.

Mrs. Cummings moved to accept the Minutes as amended. Mrs. Murphy seconded, and the motion carried.

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

- GMS is encouraging parents and students to make their voices heard by taking the Parent or Student Surveys currently available.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Melissa Sleeper, winner of the Shell Lab Challenge who will receive \$3,000 to upgrade the Science Lab. Mrs. Sleeper was recognized at a School Board meeting earlier this month.
- Congratulations to Ms. Kastner, Band Director, and Mrs. Dean, Choral Director, for earning superior ratings at Music in the Parks.
- Mrs. Decker will not be returning to Gifford Middle School. Her last day will be June 30, 2017.

#### **CHAIR'S UPDATES**

- The Education Plan (EP) for each eighth-grade student has been completed. Students and the gifted teachers had input in updating the EP as students transition to high school. Parents and students were invited to a meeting to review the EP with the Gifted Team of teachers and Mr. Jason Mistretta, Resource Specialist. Parents also have an opportunity to present information that they want included in the EP.
- Mr. Mistretta has also participated in a series of meetings at Beachland Elementary School with parents of gifted fifth-graders as they prepare to transition to the middle school.

## PTSA

- The final edition of the PTSA newsletter, *The Dolphin Dispatch*, was distributed the first week in May.
- A PTSA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. in the GMS Cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is to vote for new PTSA Board members.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Jeena Lakins, GMS Media Specialist compiled a PowerPoint presentation comparing statistics about book circulation between last year (2015-2016) and this year (2016-2017) at Gifford Middle School, Oslo Middle School, and Storm Grove Middle School. There was almost a two-thirds decrease in circulation at GMS this year over the previous year, while circulation numbers at both Oslo and Storm Grove remained relatively steady. The other two schools used school funds, SAC funds, and/or Title I funds to pay for Accelerated Reader (AR) because the School District cut secondary AR funding prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Lakins has talked with Language Arts teachers who support reinstating AR. She presented four quotes from Renaissance Learning:

- AR 360 (800 licenses)           \$8,414
- AR Enterprise (800 licenses)   \$6,214
- AR 360 (500 licenses)           \$5,609
- AR Enterprise (500 licenses)   \$4,234

AR 360 is an enhanced program that includes non-fiction passages that allow students to practice their close-reading skills. Data can be used by teachers and students to determine where students need additional skill development. AR Enterprise is the “traditional” AR program that provides a short multiple-choice quiz to check students’ reading comprehension after finishing a book.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Accelerated Reader. SAC favors purchase of 800 licenses for AR 360; however, in light of Mrs. Decker’s announcement that she will not be returning to GMS in 2017-2018 and her recommendation that the new principal be consulted, SAC will respectfully request to meet with the new principal on Thursday, July 13, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss AR and to vote on implementing AR at the start of the 2017-2018 school year.
- Dolphin Days. Mrs. Decker also recommended that SAC consult with the new principal about Dolphin Days; however, since SAC has already approved funding and the dates of July 31 and August 1 have already been advertised, SAC is committed to holding Dolphin Days as planned. Recognizing that this is a time of transition, SAC will consult with the new principal about his/her vision for an orientation for incoming sixth graders before the start of the 2018-2019 school year; yet SAC believes the current plan must be followed this summer since a change in date and/or program may hinder a smooth start to the 2017-2018 school year for incoming sixth graders.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Scripps Spelling Bee. The winner of the GMS Spelling Bee was not able to participate in regional, state, or national competition. Mrs. Schroeder asked that GMS SAC fund the school’s entry fee so that our school winner can advance to the next level. Mrs. Decker explained that GMS has paid the school entry fee in the past and would do so again; however, no students along the Treasure Coast moved

forward this year because there is no longer a sponsor for the regional competition. This is an issue that must be addressed at the School District level, not by an individual school.

**NEXT MEETING**

SAC will meet on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. in the GMS Media Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Cummings moved to adjourn. Mrs. Bounassi seconded, and the motion carried. Chairman Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

*Debra Schroeder*

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GMS Language Arts Teacher