

GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 5, 2017

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The School Advisory Council (SAC) for Gifford Middle School was called to order by Chairman Paul Tomlinson at 3:25 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2017, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT Paul Tomlinson, Chair Donald Hart Debra Schroeder
Tosha Jones, Principal Michele Murphy
Theresa Bounassi Liliana Santamaria

MEMBERS ABSENT Jennifer Cummings Willie Finklin Natron Young

GUESTS Christina DeFalco, Substance Abuse Free Indian River (SAFIR) and GMS Life Skills Teacher
Jeremy Szaichler, GMS Assistant Principal

MINUTES: Michele Murphy moved to amend the August 30, 2017 Minutes to delete the second sentence under NEW BUSINESS. Theresa Bounassi seconded and the motion carried. Donald Hart then moved to approve the Minutes of August 30, 2017, as amended. Mrs. Murphy seconded, and the motion carried.

NEW SAC MEMBERS

- Ms. Jones welcomed Liliana Santamaria to SAC. Ms. Santamaria is new to Gifford Middle School this year, working to provide ELL/ESOL support.
- Willie Finklin, representing Business/Community, will serve on the GMS SAC this school year.
- Eighth-grade student Natron Young, who is serving as a GMS representative on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, will serve on SAC this school year so that a student representative is included.

LIFE SKILLS: Mrs. Christina DeFalco provided an overview of the Life Skills program. Students at all grade levels receive instruction during the school year. The program is evidence-based and focuses on providing skills that enable students to live healthy, successful lives. Cognitive behavioral therapies include personal hygiene, healthy eating, communicating effectively, negotiating conflict, dealing with peer pressure, and identifying persuasive advertising techniques.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017-2018: Assistant Principal, Mr. Jeremy Szaichler, reviewed the draft of the Gifford Middle School Improvement Plan (SIP) for 2017-2018. The GMS SIP is aligned to the School District of Indian River County's Five Year Strategic Plan for 2017-2022, which was developed to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to an ever-changing environment. The GMS School Improvement Plan lists two goals:

- (1) Promote a caring, collaborative, and responsive staff culture which fosters positive and supportive learning and work environments that meet the needs of all students and staff.
- (2) Strengthen school-based structures to promote an evolving multi-tiered system of supports to promote a high-quality, rigorous, engaging, and differentiated learning environment that meets the needs of all students, academically and behaviorally, and leads to an increase in student achievement.

Mr. Spaichler then reviewed targeted barriers that may impede progress and an action plan for improvement. During discussion, Mr. Szaichler and Mrs. Jones agreed with comments made by SAC members, and noted that the changes discussed would be reflected in the final document that is forwarded to SDIRC and the Florida Department of Education. Theresa Bounassi moved to approve the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan, as revised. Michele Murphy seconded, and the motion carried.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATES

- Gifford Middle School is showcasing positive news. All stakeholders are encouraged to join the PTSA Facebook Page. Additionally, Ms. Jones makes a Connect Ed call to school families each Sunday evening.
- The Youth Sailing Foundation is working in partnership with GMS, providing a fully-funded program for approximately 25 students to learn how to sail. A regatta will be scheduled in the spring to showcase the students and what they have learned.
- Two recent successful events were held: (1) Back-to-School Dance and (2) Dads Bring Your Child to School.
- The Fall Dance, sponsored by the Cheerleaders, is scheduled for October 20.
- Sixth grade health screening begins the week of October 9, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Bounassi moved to approve \$2,000 for after-school buses. Mr. Hart seconded, and the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 3:15 p.m. in the GMS Media Center

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hart moved to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Mrs. Murphy seconded, and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Schroeder

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GMS Language Arts Teacher, Grades 6-8

GMS SAC Secretary