GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL November 30, 2017

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The School Advisory Council (SAC) for Gifford Middle School was called to order by Chairman Paul Tomlinson at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2017, in the Gifford Middle School Media Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT Paul Tomlinson, Chair Donald Hart

Tosha Jones, Principal Debra Schroeder

Jennifer Cummings

MEMBERS ABSENT Theresa Bounassi Liliana Santamaria

Willie Finklin Natron Young

Michele Murphy

GUEST Connie Peterson, GMS Reading Teacher and Multicultural Coordinator

MINUTES Mrs. Cummings moved to approve the Minutes of October 5, 2017, as presented.

Mr. Hart seconded, and the motion carried.

MULTICULTURAL REPORT: QUARTER 1

Ms. Peterson, Intensive Reading Teacher and the GMS Multicultural Coordinator, reviewed the Gifford Middle School Multicultural Report for the first quarter of the 2017-2018 school year. She shared the four goals for the 2017-2018 school year:

- (1) Ensure that all minority students have equitable access to learning and extra-curricular activities.
- (2) Develop activities and strategies to assist minority students with academic success in the classroom.
- (3) Monitor attendance of minority students and work with administration to devise strategies to assist with improving student attendance. The plan is to have several layers of support for minority students while building relationships with the students and their families.
- (4) Celebrate minority student success. Broadening minority students' outlooks and experiences will build background knowledge which enables students to experience higher academic success in the classroom.

Mrs. Peterson also highlighted activities and events including schoolwide events, field trips, student volunteer opportunities, faculty activities, academic activities, and community partnerships. The report also includes data about new minority hires, as well as student attendance, discipline, participation in gifted/advanced classes, and ESE.

FIVE STAR SCHOOL APPLICATION

Ms. Jones shared that Gifford Middle School will submit an application to be designated a *Five Star School*. This honor is awarded to schools who have earned recognition as a C school or better plus demonstrate positive interaction with the community. Ms. Jones showed an interesting and informative PowerPoint entitled *Shared Decision Making and Collaborative Planning*, and discussed how these ideas and techniques are being implemented at Gifford Middle School.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATES

- The administrative team, department chairs, and grade-level team leaders are all working together to support students, teachers, and families.
- The STAR Program offers support to new teachers. Mrs. Felice Heppern, AP, and Mrs. Lisa Graham, Math Teacher, are working closely with the new teachers. Each new teacher also has a mentor teacher.
- Gifford Middle School continues to showcase positive news.
- Basketball season has just started, and both the boys' and girls' teams won their first two games.
- Cheerleaders are now attending all home basketball games.
- The Mid-term Exam Schedule will be distributed soon. Our school goal is to make sure that students and parents realize that exams cannot be taken early, so we encourage all school families to ensure that students are in school December 18-21, 2017 for exams.

NEXT MEETING: The date for the next meeting will be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hart moved to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Cummings seconded, and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Schroeder

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GMS Language Arts Teacher, Grades 6-8

GMS SAC Secretary