

# **VBHS School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 17th, 2017**

**Media Center: 4:00-5:00 pm**

Facilitator: Richard Lewis

Note Taker: Lance Lunceford

**Attendees:** Students: Leif Clark, Marianna Forero, Cody Lanier, Lance Lunceford  
Parents: Edie Collins, Rafael Forero, Dora Forero, Christine Hyde, Barbara Ingraham, Diane Lanier  
SDIRC Employees: Richard Lewis, Amy Coonce, Shawn O'Keefe (Principal)  
Business/Community Partners: Jonnie May Perry  
Excused:

## **Opening**

Welcome: Richard Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Lance Lunceford to approve the December minutes and seconded by Amy Coonce. All were in favor: motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Edie Collins): The current balance of the SAC is \$10,024.83.

## **Principal's Report (Shawn O'Keefe)**

Literacy Initiative: District initiative that had teachers take part in active reading into their content areas for a three month period, applying literary strategies and collecting data on student progress through formative assessments. Approximately 96% of VBHS teachers participated in the initiative.

Mentoring and Tutoring:

- 1) SAC funded bus transportation on Tuesdays and Thursdays has proven a great resource; course recovery student attendance has more than doubled in the first semester.
- 2) Tribe Tutors (students) are available in the media center Mondays through Thursdays after school till 3:00 pm for any subject.
- 3) Forty teachers have been paired with students who wish to be mentored as part of a program.
- 4) Through C2G and the newly hired Graduation Coach, the school is working with at-risk students to meet graduation requirements.

Assessments: Several SAC members had questions regarding various aspects of standardized tests.

- 1) Barbara Ingraham asked whether the free ACT test for juniors proved worth the District's investment as a potential substitute for students who may not have done well on a state standardized assessment. Principal O'Keefe said the initiative yielded a "fair amount of success".
- 2) Cody Lanier inquired as to whether students could be exempt from taking a state assessment or EOC if they took a private standardized test such as the SAT or ACT. This is not feasible due to current statutory requirements.
- 3) Lance Lunceford and Barbara Ingraham asked if there was a possibility for the District to offer the ACT for juniors at a different time, as both believed parents and students were given a late notice on the offer. Principal O'Keefe said the District was looking into offering an additional, non-mandatory ACT test on a weekend in February geared towards students struggling with state assessments.

Attendance: The 90% policy has shown to be effective; each student got a clean slate at the start of the second semester. Checks occur every ten school days.

Graduation Rates: The Florida Department of Education released the 2015-2016 student graduation rates:

- ❖ 87.2% for the School District of Indian River County (+6 points)
- ❖ **89.4% for Vero Beach High School (+7.8 points)!!!!!!!**
- ❖ 85.3% for Sebastian River High School (+4.9 points)
- ❖ 94.9% for Indian River Charter School (+.9 points)
- ❖ Ethnic Subgroups (SDIRC):
  - 87.5% for Asian students (+4.2 points)
  - 74.2% for Black students (+9.8 points)
  - 85.6% for Hispanic students (+5.7 points)
  - 86.2% for Multiracial students (+12.5 points)
  - 90.7% for White students (+4.6 points)

The SAC reviewed graduation rate data over time, and it was shown that all subgroups of the District had an upward trend. Principal O'Keefe attributed the success of VBHS to decisions that had been made regarding the institution of graduation programs and the development of a more positive school culture in terms of the relationships between staff and students.

Literacy Week: The Florida Department of Education has designated January 23-27 as Celebrate Literacy Week. The school will participate in several activities throughout this time to celebrate literacy.

- 1) Everyone at school will Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) for 30 minutes at 9:30 am on 1/27.
- 2) On 1/25, the FLC will have a writing exercise from 7:10-8:40 am to prepare for the FSA and seniors will be reading to elementary students.
- 3) There will be a book drive to collect used books for the Boys and Girls Club.

### **Closing Items**

Naviance: Christine Hyde wondered if there was a way for the school to get the word out about Naviance, a required character education component for graduation. Principal O'Keefe informed the SAC that due to the fact that Naviance came out late for the Class of 2017 the state would not hold students accountable for the character education component of their graduation requirements. The modules and specifications of Naviance are different for each respective Class, and future Classes will be required to complete it.

Richard Lewis closed the meeting at 5:00 pm

SAC Adjourned; next meeting will be Tuesday February 14th, 2017