

VBHS School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 14th, 2017

Media Center: 4:00-5:07 pm

Chair: Cynthia Jorgensen

Vice Chair: Richard Lewis

Secretary: Lance Lunceford

Treasurer: Edie Collins

Attendees: Students: Leif Clark, Marianna Forero, Lonny Ingram, Lance Lunceford
Parents: Dora Forero, Rafael Forero, Christine Hyde, Barbara Ingraham, Diane Lanier
SDIRC Employees: Cynthia Jorgensen, Richard Lewis, Shawn O'Keefe (Principal)
Business/Community: Dawn Brooks
Excused: Edie Collins

Guests: Eddie Dixon, Kim Ratcliff (Representatives from Batelle For Kids)

Opening

Welcome: Cynthia Jorgensen called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Introduction of Batelle For Kids: Cynthia Jorgensen introduced guests Eddie Dixon and Kim Ratcliff, representatives from Batelle For Kids who are working with the SDIRC in the creation of its Five Year Strategic Plan. The representatives were on a tight schedule to present to other schools and were thus placed at the front of the agenda for this reason.

Batelle for Kids (Eddie Dixon, Kim Ratcliff)

Overview: Batelle For Kids (BFK) is a non-profit organization focused on classroom improvement through empowering teachers, developing educational leaders, and improving school systems. In their goal of assisting the SDIRC in the construction of a Five Year Strategic Plan, the BFK representatives are seeking feedback from multiple student, teacher, support staff, administrative, and community perspectives. Their purpose for meeting with the SAC is to understand its members' opinions as to what the Strategic Plan should include with respect to ensuring student success.

Construction of the Strategic Plan: The representatives from BFK made several points regarding the creation of the Strategic Plan and the methodology behind it:

- BFK has found that there are different continuities, obstacles, and solutions that are specific to each school.
- The focus of the Strategic Plan will be on preparing the SDIRC for the future environment of the 21st Century, not on creating a guide for the professional development of teachers and staff.
- BFK intends to have all community input collected going into April, though the process might push back into the month depending on the circumstances.
- There will be an emphasis within the Strategic Plan on fluidity towards complying with any new state or federal policies that might be passed in the future.

Discussion Topic: The BFK representatives asked the SAC to weigh in on what students need to know in order to succeed in the modern era. The following points were made by SAC members regarding the discussion topic:

- Diane Lanier felt that there needed to be a larger variety of AP Courses offered for academically advanced students.
- Leif Clark and Lance Lunceford both stressed the importance of instilling higher academic standards and focusing on student mastery of fundamental knowledge within each subject.

- Cynthia Jorgensen mentioned a lack of pragmatic information being relayed to students in dealing with life skills, such as business transactions, mental calculations, and behavioral skills. Christine Hyde also added to this point by stating that there is a deficiency in the knowledge that is required in the business world with respect to students who are entering into the workforce.
- Richard Lewis believed the focus should be on specific situations and future environments that take shape at VBHS, as opposed to general obstacles to education seen throughout the nation.
- Barbara Ingram wished to see a shift towards promoting opportunities that exist for all students, whether the opportunities are collegiate, career and technical, or community based, and see to it that students are given the proper mentorship in having the ability to secure those opportunities. Shawn O'Keefe echoed this by pointing out the increasing level of competitiveness witnessed within the college admissions process.
- Lonnie Ingram desired the school to support more field trips, particularly for students without electives so that they could observe the nature of different career fields and get a chance to experience what a career certification in those fields might entail after high school.
- Lance Lunceford advocated a need for students to be educated on post-secondary opportunities and what is needed to secure those opportunities, specifically the changing focus of the college admissions process from purely academics to academics and extracurricular leadership.

The BFK representatives took note of the members' feedback and thanked the SAC for its time.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes: Correcting an error on the cost of membership into the PTSA, a motion was made by Cynthia Jorgensen and seconded by Lonny Ingram to approve the February Minutes. All were in favor: motion carried.

PTSA: Shawn O'Keefe mentioned that the individual opting to replace the past president had decided not to follow through and that Laura Zorc had not contacted him regarding the SAC meeting today. Therefore, that item on the Agenda was removed.

Treasurer's Report: Edie Collins was unable to make the meeting and therefore the Treasurer's Report was removed from the Agenda.

Principal's Report: BFK and the District's Five Year Plan were all that Shawn O'Keefe had intended to discuss in the Principal's Report.

New Business

Nominating Committee: Cynthia Jorgensen mentioned that the committee responsible for nominating the proceeding year's officers would need to be formed in the coming weeks. Per VBHS SAC By-Laws, the Chair has the responsibility of forming and heading the nominating committee.

Recognition of College Acceptance: Barbara Ingram mentioned that while it is wonderful that there is a college signing day for VBHS Athletes, there exists a vacuum of recognition for students that are accepted or recruited into other prestigious universities. Other SAC members agreed on the notion that such recognition would be beneficial to the school climate, and Cynthia Jorgensen said she would look into creating a giant poster in the cafeteria where students may post their name and what college they will be attending.

Cynthia Jorgensen closed the meeting at 5:07 PM

SAC Adjourned; next meeting will be Tuesday April 11th, 2017