

VBHS School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2018
Media Center

Chair: K. Peyton Zeigler Kenneth.Zeigler@indianriverschools.org
Co-Chair: Mike Johnson Michael.Johnson@indianriverschools.org
Secretary: Edie E. Collins ecjobthree314@gmail.com
Treasurer: Cody Lanier codylanierc@gmail.com
Principal: Shawn O'Keefe Shawn.Okeefe@indianriverschools.org

Attendees:

Students: Shynerria Newsome

Parents: Edie Collins, Tracey Terpstra, Sharon Lowell, Tim Lowell, Theresa Bounassi, Dora Forero, Rafael Forero, Natasha S. (also SDIRC Employee), Katrena McMahan (PTSA President)

SDIRC

Employees: Kenneth Peyton Zeigler, Mike Johnson, Shawn O'Keefe, Katie Surette, Carrie Nino

Community

Members: None

Opening Items

Welcome: Mr. Zeigler called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

Minutes: Edie Collins reviewed the minutes from the September 11, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Theresa Bounassi and Michael Johnson to approve the minutes. All were in favor; motion carried.

Treasurer's

Report: Edie Collins reported for Cody Lanier that the SAC balance was \$40,277.38 as of 10/9/2018 as reported by the VBHS Bookkeeper.

Grant

Proposal: Ms. Katie Surette, Environmental Science teacher at the FLC requested \$6,000 for a Newsela PRO membership for the 716 students at the FLC to implement the school improvement plan. Newsela PRO allows students to read current events articles across multiple subjects at varying lexiles to accommodate for their reading level. The membership includes access to all articles which can be used in almost every subject, as well as writing prompts and text-dependent questions. Ms.

Surette's presentation was very informative and well-received by the SAC Committee. Group discussion led by Mr. Zeigler concluded with the following determinations and recommendations:

- 1) Determine if a 4 year subscription versus a 1 year subscription is an option for the program so that student's utilizing the Newsela program could be tracked in the areas of literacy, understanding, writing ability and comprehension in Science and potentially other subject areas if future collaboration with Social Studies, ELA and Reading teachers was achieved. Discuss program with other teachers both in Science and other areas and present collaborative plan for how Newsela could be implemented into current lesson plans.
- 2) Determine if Newsela conflicts with **Chief 300** program currently purchased by Indian River School District for reading improvement for lower level 1-2 students.
- 3) Determine if "teacher only" subscription would be a feasible option for Ms. Surette, also allowing multiple teachers to benefit from the program.
- 4) Determine if only lower level (1-2) students in the 9th grade (approximately 300 students) would benefit from Newsela in combination with the District's Chief 300 reading program and how success could be tracked for students at risk.
- 5) Mr. O'Keefe presented a VBHS School Grade Component Comparative for 2015-2018 showing Science Achievement as the only diminishing subject area. Could Newsela be implemented for lower level science students with the ability to track progress?
- 6) **CONCLUSION:** With consideration of the five (5) preceding points, have Ms. Surette resubmit a proposal which would be less expensive and able to be continued for a student's full high school term to track and ascertain levels of improvement / value. A feasible amount for this program would be \$2,000.

A motion was made by Edie Collins to have Ms. Surette resubmit another proposal taking into consideration the committee's issues above, which was seconded by Theresa Bounassi. All were in favor; motion carried

Principal's Report

Data:

Mr. O'Keefe reviewed VBHS's Standards Based Instruction and school wide initiative. RIGOR / STANDARDS – with two (2) video presentations showing positive and creative teaching methods versus teaching which is not on point with current philosophy of rigorous instruction with immersion of the student in the subject material even if they are not currently at "grade level" for the material which is being taught. A sample test was presented to the committee to show the relevance of a rigorous curriculum with focus on preparation of the student for what to expect when tested (FSA). Mr. O'Keefe reviewed VBHS Grade Component Comparative 2015-2018 and showed improvements have been made in every area except Science.

School Security / Safety:

Mr. Tim Lowell brought discussion to the group regarding recent violent activities at VBHS including students bringing weapons to school and a number of fights occurring on campus. Mr. O'Keefe addressed this issue and stated that the problems were being addressed by collaborating with local law enforcement including recognition that some of the issues stemmed from gang violence which unfortunately has trickled into our school. VBHS Students are at a "no tolerance level" and information of the culprits is readily accessible to the school administration. The remedies are expulsion, removal from VBHS and being sent to the alternative learning school, along with law enforcement involvement / control of the situation.

At 5:30 pm the meeting was concluded and Mr. Zeigler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Edie Collins. All were in favor as there was no further discussion.