



Gifford Middle School
SAC
Minutes
February 6, 2019

CALL TO ORDER. SAC Chairman Paul Tomlinson called the SAC Meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

ATTENDANCE. The following members were present:

Tosha Jones, Principal
Liliana Barrett, GMS Staff
Jennifer Cummings, Community Representative
Michele Murphy, GMS Parent
Debra Schroeder, GMS Faculty
Tracey Segal, GMS Parent
Paul Tomlinson, GMS Faculty and SAC Chair

MINUTES. Ms. Murphy moved to approve the Minutes from the December 12, 2018 meeting.
Ms. Cummings seconded, and the motion carried.

SDIRC PARENT SURVEY. Chris Taylor, SDIRC Director of Assessment & Accountability, asked principals to review the District's *Parent Survey* with SAC members using the following three guiding questions:

- Does the quality of the questions solicit the feedback we seek?
- Should any questions be removed?
- Should any questions be added?

The GMS SAC members discussed a few concerns and offered several suggestions about how to strengthen the Parent Survey. Ms. Jones will submit the specific details to Mr. Taylor at the District Office.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE. All students participated in the *Stop and Write (SAW)* program on the morning of February 6, writing a text-based informative essay, similar to what they will be asked to do for the FSA. Another *SAW* day is scheduled for March 6, 2019, when all students will again have a two-hour block of time to read assigned passages of text and then respond to a prompt that requires an argumentative essay. The Writing FSA will be administered on April 2, 2019.

The next Principal's Newsletter, which will be distributed with Progress Reports on February 12, 2019, will include the Assessment Calendar with testing dates for the End-of-Course Exams (EOCs) and Florida Standards Assessments (FSAs) for our GMS students.

PRINCIPAL UPDATES.

- The first school-wide testing session (SAW) went smoothly. The modified schedule helps prepare students for the resiliency needed to read assigned passages and write a complete text-based essay in a two-hour block of time. This also allows school staff to monitor test groups, locations, and computers, adjusting if necessary, to ensure that the State-required testing goes smoothly.
- Gifford Middle School was one of eighteen SDIRC schools to be recognized by the Florida Department of Education as a *Five-Star School*. This designation is awarded to schools who demonstrate a commitment to incorporate family and community members into the school environment to enhance student learning. In the District's Press Release of January 16, 2018, GMS Principal Tosha Jones was quoted as saying, "I am so pleased that Gifford Middle School has received the recognition of being a Five Star School. This honor was achieved only because of the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and the overwhelming support of our parents and community sponsors. This is a great example of our school theme: *'Together We Make our School a Success.'* I look forward to many years as a Five Star School." Additionally, Dr. Mark Rendell, SDIRC Superintendent, is quoted as saying, "This certainly is something for everyone to celebrate."
- The second annual *GMS Academic All-Star Night* is scheduled for April 25, 2019. This event recognizes and rewards students for academic achievements.

OLD BUSINESS.

- After-School Busses. SAC has already funded the cost of one after-school bus for the 2018-2019 school year and agreed to revisit the issue of bussing prior to State testing in April and May, 2019. As faculty begin tutoring/remediation sessions, the need for another bus will be necessary, so that cost will be calculated and a request for additional funding will be presented to the GMS SAC at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT. Ms. Cummings moved to adjourn. Ms. Murphy seconded, and the motion carried. The SAC meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Schroeder

Debra Schroeder

GMS ELA Teacher and SAC Secretary