



Gifford Middle School
SAC
Minutes
September 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Paul Tomlinson called the SAC Meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE. The following members were present:

Jennifer Cummings, Community Member
Vicki DeGroat, GMS Parent
Tosha Jones, GMS Principal
Debra Schroeder, GMS Faculty
Tracey Segal, GMS Parent
Jane Snead, GMS Parent
Paul Tomlinson, GMS Faculty and SAC Chair

GUESTS: Christina DeFalco, Director of Life Skills Training, Substance Awareness Center
Jose Rodriguez, GMS

MINUTES. Ms. Snead moved to approve the Minutes of August 21, 2019. Ms. Cummings seconded, and the motion carried.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING. Ms. Christina DeFalco, Director of Life Skills Training for the Substance Awareness Center spoke to SAC about the Life Skills training provided to Middle School students in the School District of Indian River County. Although there are several teachers, Ms. DeFalco will be conducting the classes at GMS. Life Skills is an evidence-based program that provides information about self-improvement, self-management, drug resistant and violence skills, and social skills. During the school year, Ms. DeFalco will meet with sixth graders for one class period each week for 16 weeks, will meet with seventh graders for one class period each week for 12 weeks, and will meet with eighth graders for one class period each week for six (6) weeks. She talked to SAC about the vaping epidemic and said that information about vaping will be presented to students during Life Skills and presentations are being planned for the community as well.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATES.

- Student response to help those in need has been swift and heartwarming:
 - (1) On *Casual for a Cause* days, students may pay \$1 to “dress down” and/or \$1 to wear open-backed sandals or slides. When SDIRC announced that the District would collect money to support the on-going search for the two firemen lost at sea, Justin Walker and Brian McCluney, GMS collected \$475.90, the most ever collected on a *Casual for a Cause* day.
 - (2) Students donated non-perishable items, including canned food, diapers and toiletries, to send to the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian.

NEW BUSINESS.

School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Ms. Jones distributed copies of the 2019-2020 GMS School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Background: Based on data from the Every School Succeeds Act (ESSA), two subgroups at GMS did not make adequate gains last year: African-Americans and Students with Disabilities (SWD). Additional strategies must be implemented, so GMS is offering a new course this year in Learning Strategies. Each class has 15 or fewer students enrolled and students will receive instruction in Study Skills. They will also use i-Ready and be provided extra time for homework and tests, as needed.

The school's SIP goals this year are:

- (1) Mathematics Learning Gains will measure at or above 65% for students whose assessment validates academic growth from the previous year. Mathematics Lower Quartile Learning Gains will measure at or above 55% for students in the lower quartile whose assessment validates academic growth from the previous year. Math Learning Gains for students with disabilities (SWD) will measure at or above 50%. Math Learning Gains for Black/African-American (AA) students will measure at or above 55%. Math Lower Quartile Learning Gains for SWD's will measure at or above 50%. Math Lower Quartile Learning Gains for Black/AA students will measure at or above 50%.
- (2) ELA Lower Quartile Gains will measure at or above 50% for students whose assessment validates academic growth from the previous year.
- (3) Science Achievement will measure at or above 60%. Science Achievement for Black/AA students will measure at or above 40% (ESSA). Science Achievement for SWD's will measure at or above 40% (ESSA).

While reviewing the SIP, several non-substantive errors were noted, and Ms. Jones made note of those so they could be fixed before finalizing the 2019-2020 GMS School Improvement Plan.

Ms. Cummings moved to approve the SIP as amended. Ms. DeGroat seconded, and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT. With no further business, Ms. Cummings moved to adjourn. Ms. DeGroat seconded, and the motion carried. Chairman Tomlinson adjourned the SAC meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Schroeder

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GMS ELA Teacher and SAC Secretary