

Sebastian River Middle School

School Advisory Committee 2013-14

The first meeting of SRMS School Advisory Committee (SAC) for 2013-2014 took place on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 3:45 pm. In attendance were: David Kramek- principal; Cynthia Emerson- assistant principal; Susan Giunta, Melissa Sleeper, Meredith Tatro, Shameka McCombs- teachers; Nancy Weiss and Caroline Maschhoff- parents.

Mrs. Tatro was nominated and elected as our SAC Chairperson and Ms. Giunta was nominated and elected SAC Secretary.

Mrs. Emerson presented information on our School Improvement Plan (SIP). Several areas of need were identified by the district through "Closing the Gap." Some of the areas and plans for improvement are: Science- teachers will incorporate STEM activities, chronic absenteeism- student missing 18 or more days will meet with volunteer teachers and/or administrators to determine the reasons for their absences and what can be done to increase attendance, Mathematics- teachers will develop an 8-step plan to improve math scores, Reading- teachers will encourage engagement and motivation with their students, and intensive tutoring that will run from January until testing time will target students in the Exceptional Student Education program.

Mr. Kramek mentioned that our data compared to the other middle schools looks very good especially in the area of behavior. He credits school-wide support of our Positive Behavior System (PBS) using the Santa Store, weekly raffles, and the end of the year carnival as examples of very visible and motivating activities that students work toward.

Mrs. Tatro gave out a copy of the SAC By-Laws. She explained that SAC, in previous years, had funded the cost of Cowboy Camp. Cowboy Camp is two day orientation for incoming 6th graders and their parents to become familiar with the SRMS campus and routines. This has been viewed as being very beneficial in relieving the anxiety that students and parents often feel when transitioning from elementary to middle school. Cowboy Camp will not be available for the 2014-15 school year without finding a way to fund the program. Some ideas discussed were: Valentine's Day Dance, possibly splitting fund raising with the PTSA, community supporters, and possibly having the PTSA become the future supporters of the Cowboy Camp. As a PTSA member, Mrs. Maschhoff will bring these ideas up for discussion with the PTSA.

Future dates for the SAC meetings will be held at 3:45 in the media center on Mondays: October 28, November 18, no December meeting due to Christmas break, January 29, 2014, February 24, March 31, no meeting in April due to FCAT testing, and the final meeting will be May 19. These times and dates are subject to change if deemed necessary.

Mr. Kramek gave notice that the school board may ask SAC as a committee or an individual member to provide input on a topic of interest. He allowed that there would be time for the members to meet to discuss the committee's position before having to report back to the board to present the response.

He also acknowledging that while there is less engagement with parents at the middle school level than the elementary level, SRMS has Book Fairs, dances, health screenings, and IB activities that can use the services of parent volunteers. Connect Ed. messages, surveys and the PTSA website- not Facebook- can be used to stay updated on the school events.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.