



Gifford Middle School
SAC
Minutes
September 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Paul Tomlinson called the SAC Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE. The following members were present:

Jennifer Cummings, Community Representative (Zoom)
Tosha Jones, GMS Principal
Tracey Segal, GMS Parent
Paul Tomlinson, GMS Faculty and SAC Chair

MINUTES. The September 16th agenda stated approval for minutes from the February 19th, 2020 meeting, however, that meeting was cancelled. The chair will place on the next agenda the approval of the minutes for the January 15, 2020.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATES.

- 1 positive COVID staff member. No students were positive, but 32 students were quarantined.

Students are will continue with lesson, because all students have been given Chromebooks. Students take them to and from school. Even if students are out, they can keep up with their assignments through Canvas.

Free breakfast and lunch for all students until December 31st.

- Ms. Jones reviewed the 2020-2021 Gifford Middle School Improvement Plan: This year's School Improvement Plan is being reviewed and changes made so that it aligns with the school district's goals and strategic plan. The district leadership team reviewed and met with administration and were pleased with the plan and the goals for cultural diversity and climate. The district leadership team wants the plan to be more explicit to be easily understood by those outside the district and school.

Based on data from the Florida Standards Assessment, Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Federal Index identified two subgroups at Gifford Middle that are not making adequate gains: African American students and Students with Disabilities (SWD). On page 18 of the plan are the areas of focus and rational for the subgroups, measurable outcomes, and the school's strategies to increase scores for these subgroups.

Strategies for these subgroups are focused on the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) Tier 2 problem solving strategies. This year Gifford Middle has instructional coaches for Reading and Math to help support the instructional model and best practices. Through problem solving strategies, the Reading/Language Arts departments are looking at the data to see where students were with their FSA scores, where they are currently, and where they need to be to be proficient. Teachers will then have data chats with individual students and set goals for the next round of diagnostics.

To help our lowest performing Students with Disabilities, Gifford Middle piloted a learning strategies class last year, and are continuing these classes this year. These classes are academic, however, the focus of these classes are on instructional strategies rather than specific classes. Students are getting practice in areas such as note taking, annotating, and citing text evidence. These classes have ten or less students and because of block scheduling students get 100 minutes every other day.

Goal: Instructional Focus

As stated earlier, Gifford Middle now has both a reading coach and a math coach. The coaches have no administrative authority and are here support teachers with their instructional practices in a non-evaluative manner. These coaches are part of the district overall strategic plan.

Goal: Student Engagement:

This academic year all district schools were charged with rebranding their school. Gifford Middle is working on obtaining a STEAM designation with a focus on marine science and robotics. These two areas are so hands on that they naturally lend themselves to student engagement. The school started small as we are moving through the STEAM designation, so Gifford Middle has a STEAM wheel every nine weeks. Mrs. Sleeper is the STEAM wheel teacher. To help with the program, Gifford Middle is meeting with the Director of Engagement, Mrs. Emerson, to see about the possibility of obtaining a \$5,000 grant to help with the program. In the future it is hoped that there will be extended learning opportunities through field trips with partners with ORCA and Harbor Branch.

Goal: Culture and Environment as related to Equality and Diversity:

Ms. Jones met with district leaders to review our data and SIP strategies toward this goal. The leadership approved those goals. The school will continue with its Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) and its FINS expectation. The school no longer has SPLASH classes after third period, so it being incorporated in the morning announcements. There is a area of focus for the week during this time, and students hear words of wisdom and watch short video clips to stress that area of focus. To focus on cultural diversity, we have added notable Hispanic figures in the announcements to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Mrs. Peterson, the Multicultural Diversity Coordinator is planning out activities for a Hispanic Heritage Week. The plan is to have a different theme each month to go along with national celebrations (African American, women).

OLD BUSINESS. There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS. Ms. Jones stated that through Title I, funds have been secured for after school programs. She will make a request at the next SAC meeting to secure funds through SAC. The intention is for SAC to fund the bus so as to use more of the Title I funds for teacher stipends.

ADJOURNMENT. With no further business, Ms. Cummings moved to adjourn. Mr. Tomlinson seconded, and the motion carried. Chairman Tomlinson adjourned the SAC Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Tomlinson

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GMS Social Studies Teacher and SAC Chair