



Gifford Middle School
SAC
Minutes
October 21, 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 (via Zoom)
- Paula Dudley, GMS Staff
- Tosha Jones, GMS Principal
- Tracey Segal, GMS Parent
- Paul Tomlinson, GMS Faculty and SAC Chair
- Caryn Toole, GMS Parent (via Zoom)

MINUTES. Tracey Segal moved to approve the SAC Minutes of January 15, 2020. Jennifer Cummings seconded, and the motion carried.

Tracey Segal moved to approve the SAC Minutes of September 16, 2020. Paula Dudley seconded, and the motion carried.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP).

Ms. Jones reviewed the four goals of the GMS 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan (SIP):

- (1) Close the achievement gap for the two under-performing ESSA sub-groups, African-American students and Students with Disabilities (SWD). The most recent State testing shows the GMS African-American students at 33% proficiency and the SWD group performing at 37% proficiency. The goal is to increase the scores of both groups to 41% proficiency. The school focus is to support these groups by teaching and emphasizing the use of learning strategies, not specific content. The GMS literacy and math coaches work with these students. After-school programs and the upcoming Saturday program will provide additional support.
- (2) Increase student engagement through STEAM wheel classes in marine science and robotics. These two science classes are new to GMS this year, developed and taught by Mrs. Melissa Sleeper. Marine Science is a nine-week class on the STEAM wheel that is available during the first semester. Mrs. Sleeper also coordinates with the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA), Harbor Branch, and the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) to provide hands-on experiences for students as part of the marine science curriculum. During the second semester, a nine-week class in robotics will replace

marine science on the STEAM wheel. The STEAM wheel is a series of four classes which provides students with a different nine-week class each marking period.

- (3) Provide equitable educational experiences for students and set high expectations for students and staff to increase achievement in all areas. When students are engaged and expectations are high, students perform better. GMS saw a 10% decrease in discipline referrals and a 30% decrease in out-of-school suspensions last year. As of today, there have been no out-of-school suspensions and only three referrals.
- (4) Increase student achievement for all students in tested areas: ELA, Math, Science, and Civics. The goal for ELA is to reach a proficiency level of 57% or above, and the goal is to reach a proficiency level of 62% or above in Math. Additionally, GMS has set its goal to see a 20% increase on unit assessments.

Ms. Segal asked how these goals will be monitored/affected if the State does not provide the annual FCAT testing this school year. Ms. Jones explained that it would result in a “hold harmless” situation and schools would then move forward at the start of the 2021-2022 school year by reviewing and revising the School Improvement Plan for that school year.

PRINCIPAL UPDATES.

MOVING FROM ONLINE LEARNING TO THE CLASSROOM/MASTER SCHEDULE.

- Gifford Middle is in the process of transitioning 135 students back into classrooms from online learning. Students are returning to campus in small groups and acclimating into their new classroom settings. The online transitional classes are being consolidated, and the master schedule is being adjusted to reflect these changes. As of now, the plan is to maintain block scheduling for the duration of this school year.

COVID-19.

- As of October 21, 2020, there has only been one positive case of COVID at Gifford Middle. Mrs. Keat, GMS Health Assistant, is working closely with students and staff to ensure that the health protocols are followed.

i-READY.

- Students who completed the i-Ready Diagnostic without the system flagging them for rushing will enjoy a celebration on Friday, October 23, 2020. Almost 98% of the students completed the challenge and will receive Kona Ice.

SPORTS.

- Soccer and volleyball seasons are underway supported by the GMS cheerleaders. Currently, students are strictly confined to inter-county competitions. Three of the four Indian River County middle schools are participating: Gifford Middle, Sebastian River Middle, and Storm Grove Middle. Basketball conditioning for both boys and girls is starting, and those teams will begin competition soon.

MORNING ARRIVAL PROCEDURES.

- Limiting the number of students gathered in one location is part of the COVID protocols; therefore, when students arrive on campus each day, they either go to the cafeteria for breakfast OR report directly to their first class of the day.

ATTENDANCE.

- Paula Dudley explained that each block class is scheduled for 100 minutes, and students who leave early are marked absent. Ms. Jones will discuss this procedure with other administrators to see how they are marking attendance in the event that students leave class early.

OLD BUSINESS. There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS. Ms. Jones requested that SAC fund one additional after-school bus until the end of the semester. Title I funds currently pay for one bus each week, but Ms. Jones explained that the additional funding will allow academic and enrichment activities to be separated and offered on different days so that students have the opportunity to participate in both.

Ms. Cummings moved that SAC provide \$1,000 to pay for the additional after-school bus for the remainder of the first semester and use any extra money from that \$1,000 to continue funding that after-school bus in the second semester. Paula Dudley seconded, and the motion to approve funding for a second after-school bus carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Tomlinson
GMS Social Students Teacher and SAC Chair