



Gifford Middle School  
SAC  
Minutes  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

**ATTENDANCE.** The following members were present:

- Paul Tomlinson, GMS Faculty and SAC Chair
- Tosha Jones, GMS Principal
- Paula Dudley, GMS Staff
- Vickie DeGroat, GMS Parent
- Jennifer Cummings, Community Representative (via Zoom)

**MINUTES.** Jennifer Cummings moved to approve the SAC Minutes of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Vickie DeGroat seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- **PRINCIPAL UPDATES-** No principal updates.
- **TITLE I -** All Gifford Middle School stakeholders have been informed that Gifford Middle is a Title I school. A parent survey regarding Title I was placed on the Focus portal for parents to give the school feedback.
- **Request for Funds- Kagan Staff Development- Tosha Jones**  
Tosha Jones, GMS principal, requested \$3,000 from the GMS SAC to make up the shortfall from Title I funds to pay for the Kagan Instructional Strategies professional development that would take place on the district's professional development day on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Vickie DeGroat moved to approve the \$3,000 for the Kagan Professional Development. Jennifer Cummings seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Request for Funds- Accelerated Reader - Jeena Lakin**  
Jeena Lakin, GMS Media Specialist, requested from the GMS SAC \$4,425 to pay for 500 licenses for the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. Tosha Jones asked if that number could be lowered to a smaller number of licenses as it was unclear whether the school could get that many students to participate in the program as it is voluntary. Jennifer Cummings stated that it would be more prudent to start with a smaller number of licenses, say 200, and see how many students participate before committing more funds. SAC members all agreed on the importance of the Accelerated Reader program and funding it.

Jennifer Cummings made a motion to fund the purchase of as many AR licenses as possible up to \$2,500. Vickie DeGroat seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS.** There was no Old Business.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

- **Approval of the School Improvement Plan**

The Gifford Middle School Improvement Plan (SIP) is updated annually and approved by the School Advisory Committee. This year's goals are like last year's goals, however a key difference in this year's plan is that the plan will be updated every nine weeks. This means goals will be updated and reviewed each nine weeks as new activities/initiatives are started and ended.

**Goals**

**1. STEAM- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics**

Last school year the STEAM curriculum was delivered through a STEAM wheel class. This school year the goal is to incorporate the STEAM curriculum schoolwide through multiple subject areas.

**2. Academically Underperforming Students**

There are two ESSA subgroups that have been identified as academically underperforming at Gifford Middle. These two groups are our Students with Disabilities (SWD) and African American students. As part of the School Improvement Plan, the school will utilize Title I funds to expand learning opportunities through after school programming and tutoring. In addition to tutoring, strategic scheduling is allowing for students to be placed in intensive reading and math classes.

**3. Climate and Culture**

**Impact Reviews-** On September 13<sup>th</sup>, district staff, school principals and assistant principals, and other staff conducted the first of three impact reviews at Gifford Middle. Classrooms were visited by different groups at different times during a 90-minute class to get a snapshot of the classrooms at Gifford Middle. The impact reviews are not teacher observations. Their purpose is to give the school an overall idea on how instruction is being delivered to students so that a plan can be developed to help increase future success. A common area for the school to focus on after the first impact review centered on engagement.

**Reading** – A new resource called Amplify is being introduced this year in the English Language Arts classes. The computer-based program allows teachers to focus on specific lessons.

**Kagan-** November 1<sup>st</sup> is set aside as a teacher professional development day. The school would like to bring back the Kagan Strategies professional development for this professional development day. The Kagan training was conducted several years ago, but administration felt that it would be beneficial to bring the training back because of the number of new hires the school has had since the last Kagan training.

**Tutoring-** Funded through Title I, Gifford Middle is offers tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The after-school programming started this year just after Labor Day. Currently Math and Reading/English Language Arts tutoring are being offered. Science tutoring will be starting soon.

Jennifer Cummings moved to approve the 2021-2022 GMS School Improvement Plan Vickie DeGroat seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- **SAC Meeting Dates** SAC members agreed that future SAC meetings would take place on the third Wednesday of the month.

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT.** With no further business, Jennifer Cumming moved to adjourn. Vickie DeGroat seconded, and the motion carried. Chairman Tomlinson adjourned the SAC Meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Tomlinson

GMS Social Students Teacher and SAC Chair