



# GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## School Advisory Council Minutes

**Date:** January 17, 2023

**Time:** 3:45pm-4:36pm

**Call to Order:** Chairman Jim Russo called the SAC meeting to order at 3:45pm.

**Attendance:** the following members were present via TEAMS:

- Chadwick Bacon, GMS Principal
- Jim Russo, SAC Chairman
- Suzie Kulscar, Parent
- Kelley Della Porta, Parent
- Angela Banzhaf, Parent
- Conner Fulton, Parent
- Gali Dupay, Parent
- Deborah Fulton Terry, Parent

**Minutes:** Suzie Kulscar moved to approve the SAC Minutes of November 28, 2022. Gali Dupay seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **1/17/23 Minutes: (Based on SAC Agenda)**

#### **Volunteers for Secretary**

At this time no members who attended the meeting on January 17, 2023, volunteered for this role. This role is still available for a member.

#### **Gifford Middle School Rebranding**

Dr. Chadwick Bacon presented to SAC information related to the rebranding of Gifford Middle school. He discussed the school mascot would be changing and moving from the “Dolphins” to the “Tigers”. The goal is to bring back the rich heritage of the “Tigers” that started the school. The Gifford alumni association has been a catalyst in assisting in the rebranding efforts. In addition, the goal is to progress forward and breathe new life into the campus by creating a 6<sup>th</sup> grade learning academy, science center, robotics club, marine biology studies, and organizations within the campus. During student drop off and pick-up a questionnaire will be

distributed with use of a QR Code for parents to scan and respond to questions related to the rebranding. A new marquee will kick off the rebranding as the original one has been broken and work has been started.

The following timeline was presented to the SAC meeting. This timeline is in the media center at Gifford Middle School.

1898	1937	1952	1969	1995-Present
Gifford School Grades 1-8	Becomes Gifford High School Grades 9-12 Mascot: Tigers	Students move into new Gifford High School	Gifford Middle 7 Schools Integrated Mascot: Mustangs	Gifford Middle School Grades 6-8 Mascot: Dolphins

After opening presentation, Dr. Chadwick Bacon opened up the floor for questions and comments.

**Kelley Della Porta, Parent** Where is the money coming from for rebranding? Who was part of the decision-making process for rebranding?

- Dr. Chadwick Bacon discussed that money gets allocated through the capitals funds project that goes towards projects for schools. In addition, an anonymous \$50,000 donation has been made to assist in the rebranding efforts; sports uniforms, band uniforms, PE uniforms, etc.
- The decision making process included Gifford alumni association, school district officials, superintendent, community members, and board members. Multiple meetings/ open forums related to rebranding has been held.

**Kelley Della Porta, Parent** Why weren't parents asked questions earlier in the year or prior to the QR Code questionnaire being sent out about rebranding?

- It feels like a backwards timeline process, and it being sent out a little to late. It feels like we are being told and the questionnaire is an afterthought.
- Dr. Bacon discussed that the QR code questionnaire is to get feedback about thoughts and ideas related to the rebranding. In addition, to create enthusiasm and bring in the school community to be part of the process.

**Angela Banzhaf, Parent** Why does money need to be spent on rebranding? **When will the rebranding start and how long will it take?**

- A lot of things will need to be replaced, painted, and changed to accommodate the new mascot and colors.
- We can't keep teachers in the district. Money should be allocated to teachers pay for retention.

- Several school board members were not aware of the rebranding and after finding out about it are not happy.
- There are items at Gifford Middle School that should be fixed that haven't been fixed in a while. Money could be spent to fix and improve the school and not on rebranding.

**Angela Banzhaf, Parent** When will the rebranding start and how long will it take?

- Dr. Chadwick Bacon discussed that on February 11, 2023 a community announcement will be made discussing the rebranding and mascot change to tigers. In addition, the unveiling of the new marquee. The rebranding will be done in phases. The first phase will be the gymnasium which will take place over summer.

**Angela Banzhaf, Parent** Would like the data that was collected from the QR code questionnaire.

### **Additional Questions for Superintendent and School Board Members**

1. What is the timeline for the rebranding?
2. What is the cost of the total project for rebranding?
3. What is the difference in cost for the gym being rebranded? (Gym was set to be remodeled, but not the items below.)
  - New mural
  - New banners
  - New Mats
4. Why weren't taxpayers and school community members notified earlier about the rebranding?
5. Why weren't more people involved when meeting with the alumni association for Gifford?

**Old Business:** There was no old business that was carried over from the previous meeting on November 28, 2022.

**New Business:** There was no new business discussed or needed for the next SAC meeting.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Suzie Kulscar moved to adjourn. Angela Banzhaf seconded, and motion carried. Chairman Jim Russo adjourned the SAC meeting at 4:36pm.