



# GIFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## School Advisory Council Minutes



**Date:** August 23, 2023

**Time:** 3:42pm-4:36pm

**Call to Order:** Chairman Jim Russo called the School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting to order at 3:41pm.

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

- Dr. Chadwick Bacon, GMS Principal
- Jim Russo, SAC Chairman
- Suzie Kulscar, Parent (TEAMS)
- Aqila Rhodes, Assistant Principal
- Tena Guarino, Parent (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Minutes:** Suzie Kulscar moved to approve the SAC Minutes of May 1, 2023. Aqila Rhodes seconded the motion, and the motion carried. SAC Minutes of May 1, 2023, was approved.

### **8/23/23 Minutes: (Based on SAC Agenda)**

#### **Introductions**

Dr. Chadwick Bacon introduced his staff for School Advisory Council (SAC).

#### **Volunteers for Secretary**

At this time no members who attended the meeting volunteered for this role. This role is still available for a member.

#### **Principals Update**

Dr. Chadwick Bacon discussed the new school branding, moving from the dolphin mascot to the tiger mascot. Dr. Chadwick Bacon discussed a new marquee was installed on 49<sup>th</sup> street side of the building, signage painted/rebranded maroon and is able to display announcements, cafeteria has been painted, gym floors have been redone and new tiger mascot painted on floor, and academic building doors have been painted maroon.

It was further discussed that there have also been building and teacher moves to create learning academies for grade levels and academic specialties. Teachers have been moved to the different learning academies that fit their educational background and strengths with academics. The following are the academies that were discussed;

- 100 Building: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Academy
- 200 Building: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Academy
- 300 Building: Advanced Learning Academy
- 400 Building: Science Learning Academy
- 1300 Building 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Academy

### **Request for Funds**

Dr. Chadwick Bacon requested \$3,000.00 from the School Advisory Council (SAC) to assist in getting clubs, after-school activities, tutoring, detention, and transportation set up and running until funds become available through Title 1.

Ms. Tena Guarino motioned to approve the release of \$3,000.00 from the School Advisory Council (SAC) budget, as an initial request for funds to assist clubs, activities, tutoring, detention, and transportation with an understanding that more funds may be requested at a later time depending on the release of funds through Title 1. Ms. Aqila Rhodes seconded the motion, and the motion passed. \$3,000.00 was approved for After-School extended programming.

### **School Improvement Plan <SIP> (Quarter One)**

Dr. Chadwick Bacon shared out the 3 main areas of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) for Quarter One which were:

#### ***Culture and Climate***

*Synopsis:* As per the previous school years Climate Survey and observational data gathered by administration during collaborative planning meetings it was evident that 100% of the teaching staff did not operate in a manner that took collaborative student-centered approaches to developing instruction.

*Theory of Action:* By creating a school environment built around the concept of teaming, we will experience improved collaboration, professional growth, student-centered approaches to instruction, and a positive school culture that contributes to better student outcomes and overall school success.

*Expected Evidence:* Team works with Admin to create a reoccurring schedule of times for the team to get together outside of content based collaborative planning meetings. The master schedule, teacher moves, school map layout, student academic needs, and available staffing all

aligns to ensure that a more comprehensive educational experience for students and teachers is present. Deans are working with the Teams on a school based PD day 8/9/23 that will generate an artifact of evidence that the teams have in fact worked through the process of positive behavioral expectations, Team Norms, Identify Key Values, as well as Develop Consequences and Rewards.

*Goal:* By the end of the 1st 9 weeks it will be evident via observational data that at least 50% of teams are operating in a positive school culture characterized by collaboration, continuous improvement, shared goals, and a strong sense of community thus contributing to a more enriching learning experience for students.

### ***Academics***

*Synopsis:* ELA Achievement for the 22-23 Schoolyear was 35% which was a 9% decrease from the previous year. Math Achievement for the 22-23 Schoolyear was 47% which was an 8% increase from the previous year. Science Achievement for the 22-23 Schoolyear was 40% which was a 12% decrease from the previous year. Algebra and Geometry for the 22-23 Schoolyear was 87% which was a 5% decrease from the previous year.

*Theory of Action:* By having teachers implement Building Thinking Classrooms we will observe an increase in teachers monitoring through continuous formative assessment, observations, feedback, student-centered dialogue, data-driven instruction, goal setting, progress monitoring, and collaborative learning. This monitoring process allows teachers to gain valuable insights into their students' thinking and learning processes, enabling them to provide appropriate support and guidance to facilitate their intellectual growth and development.

*Expected Evidence:* Teachers participating in the process and in turn implementing independently in class with confidence. It would be evident through walkthroughs that the subgroup students are receiving the necessary academic supports, such as but not limited to an inclusive environment, exposure to diverse instructional materials, differentiated instruction, and culturally responsive teaching. Regularly inviting teachers and students to the Math Coach's room as a model class that implements Building Thinking Classrooms in a Cooperative teaching approach. The math coach and teacher will work together in the same classroom to support and instruct a diverse group of students using the Building Thinking Classroom Model.

*Goal:* By the end of the 1st semester, it will be evident via walkthrough data that 50% of the faculty is implementing BTC strategies. By the end of the 1st 9 weeks the desired academic outcomes from the implementation of Building Thinking Classrooms will increase the student achievement compared to last year's state assessment data as follows: Civics 50%, ELA 25%, Math 30%, Science 30%, Alg/Geo 50%, LG 30%, and BQ 30%.

EOY Academic Goals: Civics 75%, ELA 50%, Math 65%, Science 60%, Alg/Geo 95%, LG 60%, and BQ 65%.

### ***Community and Family Engagement***

*Synopsis:* The 22-23 Climate Feedback Survey Data indicated that there is an area of improvement to increase our school's communication methods and frequency. In addition, it was observed that a low turnout rate for our Parent and Community Engagement events was evident and could possibly be attributed to low frequency communication and limited communication methods.

*Theory of Action:* By focusing on the enhancement of communication we will observe a 25% increase of active participation by parents and students at community and family engagement events during the 1st 9 weeks of school as measured by this year's sign in logs as compared to last year's sign in logs.

*Expected Evidence:* A minimum of 1 or more school messengers will be sent weekly, 1 or more FOCUS Portal Messages will be generated per week, and 2 or more Social Media Postings per week will be generated. In addition, flyers if necessary will be generated and distributed to car riders and bus riders if need be. The new marquee will be used and updated on a daily basis based on relevant school happenings.

*Goal:* These communication goals will include increasing parental involvement, enhancing teacher-student communication, or improving the dissemination of important school information. The goals will include a minimum required number of school messengers, FOCUS Portal Messages, and Social Media Postings per week.

Tena Guarino moved to approve the School Improvement Plan (SIP) for Gifford Middle School with no changes or edits being made. Jim Russo seconded the motion to approve the School Improvement Plan (SIP) for Gifford Middle School. The motion carried and passed.

### **A2 What is it?**

In an effort to close the academic gap, the School District of Indian River County is extending its initiative known as A2 (Acclimate & Achieve) another year. This initiative is designed to be implemented in a very non-traditional approach to assist students in closing the academic gap through different types of programming and lessons being taught. The parameters being used at Gifford Middle School will be based on past year's academic scores, i-Ready Data, Unit Assessments, core academic grades, and FAST Data.

**Old Business:** Review and approve May 1, 2023 School Advisory Council (SAC) minutes. There was no other old business that was carried over from the prior school year (2022-2023).

**New Business:** There was no new business discussed during the 8/23/23 School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting. There were no questions or concerns that needed to be addressed for the next SAC meeting (September) at this time.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Ms. Aqila Rhodes moved to adjourn. Ms. Tena Guarino seconded, and motion carried. Chairman Jim Russo adjourned the SAC meeting at 4:36pm.