

GILCHRIST SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: September 12, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Media Center

Meeting Minutes

SAC Meeting Attendance							
Teacher/Staff Members		Parent Members		Partner Members		Guests	
Scotty Crowe	P	Denis Burns	P	Abby Vail	A	Anna Ross	P
Rosie Wyatt	P	Breana Giblin	P			Katherine Bowman	P
Cheryl Mitchell	P	Alyene Calvo	A				
Diana Haverlah	A	Vanessa Bell	A				
Lauren Holley	P	Eva Horton	P				
Kelli Willis	T	Caroline Weiss	P				
		Hillary Speed	P				
		Ali Palmer	A				
SAC Meeting Attendance Codes: P= Present in Person, T= Present on Teams, A= Absent							

2023-2024 SAC Officers

Chair: Denis Burns

Vice Chair: Breana Giblin

Recording Secretary: Alyene Calvo

DAC Rep: Kelli Willis



1) Welcome & Voting—Denis Burns

- a. Approval of Minutes from 3/12/23 meeting (Denis):
 - i. Caroline moved to approve the minutes, Breana seconded, all were in favor
- b. Call for nominations for SAC Vice-Chair (tabled from last meeting). Explanation of the role of Vice Chair given by Mr. Crowe. Breana Giblin volunteered to serve as Vice Chair, Eva moved to approve the nomination, all were in favor.
- c. Denis called for a vote to approve the slate of officers for the 2023-2024 school year: Denis Burns (Chair), Breana Giblin (Vice Chair), Alyene Calvo (Recording Secretary), Kelli Willis (DAC Rep). All were unanimously in favor of the slate of officers.

2) Principal's Message—Scotty Crowe

- a. Mr. Crowe appreciates the SAC's service to Gilchrist. Each school is required by law to have a School Advisory Council which must approve the use of school recognition funds, approve the School Improvement Plan, and approve the School Improvement Budget. Unfortunately for schools, the legislature has slowly eliminated the dollar amount tied to these school improvement budgets. Luckily for Gilchrist, our PTO fills that void in the areas where we no longer receive funding from the state.
- b. SAC also serves as a sounding board for issues related to Gilchrist. As the SAC school liaison, Ms. Wyatt will draft a proposed agenda prior to SAC meetings—but relies on members to provide feedback on discussion topics relevant to school improvement.
- c. Very smooth opening to the school year. We are larger than we have been in many years, with 901 enrolled students. We are at capacity but are just under class size averages with an average of 17 in K-2 and an average of 21.1 in 4-5.
- d. School facility updates: new flooring, paint, and technology. Contractors are nearly finished with the 4th grade wing—waiting for custom cabinetry to be installed.
- e. New project: enhanced PE covered area to include fans & lighting scheduled to start work this school year
- f. New EDEP director: Shannon Boldt has been hired. Ms. Aronia Jackson retired after 25 years of service to Gilchrist. We have one of the largest programs with 295 students enrolled. Looking forward to great things in EDEP.
- g. Work has begun on the I-10 sound barrier that will run along the back of our campus/playground. Mr. Crowe has met with DOT to discuss this 197-day project.
- h. Open House will take place on September 21st (rescheduled from the Hurricane).

3) School Safety Updates—Cheryl Mitchell

- a. During pre-planning week, all staff participated in a mandatory Active Assailant drill put on by Law Enforcement
- b. We are required to have 11 total drills per school year: 6 emergency drills (4 active assailant drills, 2 severe weather drills) and 5 fire drills. Our 1st fire drill was school-wide and now it will be per building. EDEP also practices drills, as do the busses.

4) PTO President's Message—Caroline Weiss

- a. The next Bookfair will take place during Grandparent's Week (Feb 12-16)
- b. PTO will have a Spirit Wear booth during Open House on Sept 21st; Denis is hoping to

- enlist the help of the Grizzly Guys for parking, etc.
- c. New Chairs for the Faculty Meeting Committee: Both Moms have younger students, they are enthusiastic with cute ideas & themes
- d. Annual Soup & Chowder Luncheon will be on November 12th
- e. Great Grizzly Run—this is the first year Gilchrist PTO is transitioning away from the Boosterthon company for our major fundraiser and taking on this event ourselves. The decision was made in a very thoughtful way with the support of teachers, staff, and parent groups. Although the Boosterthon company provided a wonderful product the school made the decision to increase the profits back to the school (49% of the fund-raised proceeds went to Boosterthon). Belinda Wise is the chair of the GGR & will speak to the Faculty/Staff at the next faculty meeting. There will be growing pains as with any new endeavor, but we have done our research and modeled our event on other schools who have taken over their own Run. Partnering with Rising Spear @ FSU—Student Athlete Volunteers. The goal is to make \$85,000. We have overestimated our expenses but still expect to net more than previous years. Changes: no individual kid prizes or prize delivery, more inclusive class prizes, prizes are GES logo'd, using Pledge Star to collect pledges, pulled out the Character Building/Daily Team Huddle.

5) Gilchrist Spotlight: UFLI—Anna Ross & Katherine Bowman

- a. UFLI: University of Florida Literacy Institute
- b. The newly adopted Savvas My View ELA Curriculum lacked many phonics/phonemic awareness components that are part of the FL standards for reading. Teachers were having to find materials & curriculum to supplement the curriculum.
- c. LCS wrote grants to provide all K/1 teachers UFLI manuals and all K/1, and ESE & intervention students manipulatives & materials.
- d. Teachers participated in training over the summer which was very beneficial as it was given by the author of the program.
- e. Ms. Bowman (Kindergarten): participated in training over the summer, has watched you tube videos, read the manuals and done her research to prepare for the new UFLI curriculum. There are Facebook teacher groups that offer tips/strategies. She finds the curriculum very systematic and explicit, she finds that it reviews the skills and provides many opportunities for practice. The curriculum is based on the FL standards which helps teachers to trust UFLI.
- f. Ms. Holley (1st grade): also, really likes the curriculum. Her students benefit from the predictable routines, they know exactly what to expect, which gives them more opportunities for learning.

6) School Improvement Plan—Anna Ross

- a. Ms. Ross reviewed school data (see attached PowerPoint) which include 22-23 EOY data & 23-24 PM1 data
- b. Gilchrist continues to meet & exceed expectations relative to our SIP goals from 22-23 and compared to both LCS & State data
- c. At the next SAC committee, we will review PM2 data

- d. The School Improvement Plan was drafted from the input of our teacher leaders and school stakeholders, has been posted on the school website, and will be available for public hearing at Open House.
- e. SAC members were thanked for their input through the school improvement process.

7) Final Questions/Comments

- a. Blaze Pizza Share Night Tonight
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm