

Gilchrist School

Advisory Council (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022 at 6:00pm

Members & Guests Attending: Jen Patterson, Amy Taylor, Alyene Calvo, Dawn Wilder, Shannon Boldt, Scotty Crowe, Anna Ross, Kimberly Cloud, Lynn Hatchett, Cheryl Mitchell, Rebekah Weldon, Travis Morris, Kellie Ralston, Dieonne Smith, Bevin Steverson, Jennifer Weaver, Rosie Wyatt, Chris York

I. SAC Welcome — Jen Patterson

- a. Opening message and welcome shared
- b. Discussion on upcoming last meeting and thinking through next year's SAC leadership. The board would like to encourage everyone to consider taking on a leadership position for the next 2022 school year. Positions needed:
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Vice Chair
 - iii. Recording Secretary
 - iv. DAC Representative

II. Approval of the 12/7 Meeting Minutes — Alyene Calvo

- a. All members in favor of approving the meeting minutes, none opposed

III. PTO President's Message—Rebekah Weldon

- a. Overview of accomplishments:
 - i. Passed a contribution for Black History Month shirts for staff
 - ii. Donuts for Grownups will be rescheduled for end of March
 - iii. Sweetheart Soiree will stay at the beginning of February

IV. DAC Report — Dieonne Smith

- a. Generally, DAC is very exciting as a lot of interesting information is shared. It's helpful to see how we connect to DAC – they want input from all schools, so we are working together as a community.
- b. October 7th meeting content:
 - i. Awarded \$6 million from a fund from Stoneman Douglas Victim's Fund to upgrade school safety. We hired two employees to monitor technology and social media issues.
 - ii. The saying for this year is "If you see something, say something." If you come across something, report it to the number for the security center – 850-922-KIDS.
- c. November 4th meeting content:
 - i. Rocky Hanna presented on concerns related to COVID.
 - ii. Waiting on 3rd wave of federal funds to come in for programs. Approximately \$12 million has to go to summer program funding and must be spent by 2024.
 - iii. Concern related to Red Hills Charter School.
 - 1. A discussion was held related to the pros and cons of charter schools for the community and how schools are funded.
 - 2. A group discussion was held related to how funding gets allocated related to special programs such as ESOL, IEP, ESE (weighted funding). Scotty Crowe explained that each child has a funding formula assigned to them that is set by the legislature each year. BSA – Basic

Student Allocation (of funding). The funding is assigned to the child and follows them to the school they attend, whether it is public, private, charter, etc.

- iv. State is eliminating FSA testing and will replace it with progress monitoring. They want us to have a way to assess kids that is fair but not put an extra administrative burden on teachers. They also want to make sure the data that is gathered is used.
- d. December meeting content:
 - i. Discussion around safe routes – bicycle and walking paths. Mostly focusing on other schools where this is a challenge, not really a challenge for Gilchrist right now.
 - ii. There is a new person in the Office of Admissions, Molly Smith, who will be taking care of enrollment centrally.
 - iii. Also considering a single sign-on for parents so they do not have to log into different places.

V. Progress Monitoring — Anna Ross

- a. Progress monitoring window:
 - i. Coming to a close on the 21st but majority of students are already finished – this is the data that is reviewed with teachers to predict FSA scores. It helps us monitor children that may need to stay in intervention or can come out.
 - ii. Interventions team is doing amazing and has already pulled 15 children out of intervention and hoping for 15 more.
 - iii. A lot of attention has been focused on 2nd graders as this is technically their first year (due to COVID) and they are rebuilding their skills.
- b. Curriculum for next year – next steps:
 - i. Selected myView by Savvas
 - ii. Teachers have voted and it has gone to the school board.
 - iii. Public comment will be held in January
 - iv. Question on how often the curriculum changes: Typically, it is on a 5-year cycle, although this time it has been 6 years due to COVID. Each subject has a different cycle – this year is Reading, next year is Math, then Science, etc. There are new standards that come into play, like from the Feds or from the state and we have to amend/adjust. The new state standard is BEST standards, so it makes sense for us to align to the state standard.

II. School Safety – Cheryl Mitchell:

- a. Evacuations –
 - i. Have a bus evacuation planned for next week – we have 1 per semester.
 - ii. We have had 6 evacuation drills, as well as 2 lock downs and 2 lock out drills. These will continue throughout the year.
 - iii. There will be a tornado drill in the Spring where we will train the students.
- b. School rekeying – rekeying supposed to happen over the weekend. This is a big deal as one of the main safety protocols coming down from the state is to make sure doors are locked. We will have to get new specs on doors. This will be expensive and a major undertaking, but it will help us meet the standards and requirements for doors being safely locked. There will be a safety monitor checking the locks 3 times a day. If a door is found unlocked, we take that very seriously and will address it immediately.
 - i. Taking time to go to after school programs to ensure that safety measures are up to date there. We will focus on locked doors during the day but since those kids spend a lot of time outdoors, we will make sure they focus on which doors are UNLOCKED so they know where to go for safety, if needed.

- c. Students have been trained on anti-bully and harassment strategies and staff are getting trained on youth mental health strategies.
- d. We will convene the Threat Assessment Team once a month.

III. Threat Assessment Update – Bevin Steverson:

- a. Bevin shared a presentation related to the Threat Assessment Protocol.
 - i. This has been created in response to increasing violence around schools. The goal is prevention.
 - ii. We want to make sure that each student is treated the same as we go through this process.
 - iii. The incident is discussed, and we determine how we will support that student and their family and establish a supervision plan. This information stays in the student record and is tracked through the following years.
 - iv. Based on the Senate Bill we are required to have monthly meetings to review students with past and current assessments. We are not looking at “what they did” but “what are we providing them? How are we supporting them?”
 - v. Treating the kids the same is important – sometimes it is the kids you never expected to do something. That’s why we have a protocol and we follow it – it guides you through the whole process and takes about a day to complete. It is very thorough.
- b. Behavior Screeners – October/November:
 - i. These are targeted at prevention. This helps us identify children that need further assistance.
- c. Question from the group: Do you have a defined list of potential threats? How do you decipher between a kid that may be going through something at home versus an actual threat?
 - i. This is the purpose of our assessors and deputies. They are there to understand what are the follow up questions that need to be asked to get to the root of the problem.
 - ii. If we have students in crisis, we have mobile services available for mental health. Before an older child is Baker Acted, for example, we would do an evaluation to make sure it is the appropriate intervention.
- d. Comment by Mr. Crowe: You can tell by the discussion that this topic is very pertinent right now. Safety and security is our #1 focus for our children. Focus on academic, physical, socio-emotional needs of our kids is critically important. We are always looking at how do we meet their needs on all these levels. Unfortunately, it is terrible tragedies that spotlight how schools can have the resources and training to better serve our children. We have seen an uptick in anxiety and behaviors that stem from COVID, so we are now training our staff on how to take care of the mental health of everyone involved.

IV. COVID Protocol Updates – Rosie Wyatt:

- a. All teachers and adult guests on campus are being asked to wear masks unless they can be socially distanced. Students still have a choice.
- b. There are no quarantine requirements for exposures – no requirement for other people to be quarantined.
- c. Students who do test positive must quarantine for 10 days and may return on Day 11. We used to go by symptom date but now we go by the test date – that’s Day 0. Within those 10 days, if the student gets a negative test or the doctor says they can return, they can return earlier.
- d. Communication method: you will get a letter from Focus if there has been a confirmed case in your child’s class. Parents have a choice if they want to keep their child home for 5 days after that kind of exposure. There will be no more listserv emails – now the schoolwide numbers are communicated via the dashboard. Currently there have been 31 students and 7 staff test positive.

V. Principal Comments – Scotty Crowe:

- a. Voiced appreciation for our SAC members.
- b. Over the holidays we lost 8 students but we added 8 new students – currently at 845 students. We usually see transition for families at the holidays but we are trending well.
- c. Class size average is well within the state requirements:
 - i. K-3 average is 16.99 (18 is the threshold)
 - ii. 4-5 average is 19.27 (22 is the threshold)
- d. Upcoming events - busy time for the school:
 - i. National Literacy Week is soon
 - ii. Great group working on activities for Black History Month
 - iii. Testing season is upon us so we are starting to get in testing plans and protocols – Bevin is our coordinator.
 - iv. There is no school on Monday for MLK Day.
 - v. Report cards published tomorrow night.
 - vi. Mid-year review time – we are looking at the data. Thursday, Anna and the administration will meet individually with each teacher to cover each student for progress monitoring – Data Chats. This helps us identify the needs of the students.
 - vii. Next meeting:
 - 1. Would like to table Capital Outlay discussion for next meeting.
 - 2. Would like to talk about facilities and the needs/projects that are on the horizon.
 - viii. Finally, please consider taking on leadership roles within the SAC next year.

VI. Meeting was adjourned by Jen Patterson at 7:15pm.