

**Gilchrist School**  
**Advisory Council (SAC)**

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022 at 6:00pm

**Members & Guests Attending:** Jen Patterson, Amy Taylor, Alyene Calvo, Dawn Wilder, Shannon Bottini, Scotty Crowe, Anna Ross, Kimberly Cloud, Lynn Hatchett, Cheryl Mitchell, Rebekah Weldon, Dieonne Smith, Bevin Steverson, Jennifer Weaver, Rosie Wyatt, Chris York, Bridgette Rankin, Victoria Mendenhall, Jihye Sung, Diana Haverlah, Kelli Willis

I. SAC Welcome — Jen Patterson

- a. Opening message and welcome shared
- b. Nominations for opening positions:
  - i. Chair: Jen Patterson nominated – Motion by Shannon, Seconded by Alyene – all in favor
  - ii. Recording Secretary: Alyene Calvo nominated – Motion by Bridgette, Seconded by Mr. Crowe – all in favor
  - iii. DAC Representative: Kelli Willis nominated – Motion by Rebekah, Seconded by Bridgette – all in favor

II. Approval of the 1/11 Meeting Minutes — Alyene Calvo

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

III. PTO President’s Message—Rebekah Weldon

- a. Rebekah Weldon was surprised with the 21-22 Volunteer of the Year Award. The school appreciates your time, gifts, and love of this school!
- b. Overview of previous PTO meeting:
  - i. Bylaws changed to hold elections for officers in March instead of May to give time for succession.
  - ii. Moving accounts and changing names for new leadership
  - iii. Added a provision for virtual/hybrid meetings
- c. Overview of accomplishments:
  - i. Discussing space outside of cafeteria. Looking to make it more inviting as that is the first thing people see when they drive up. Coming up with a plan to shade the area, have better seating, and adjust fencing. Hoping to have it installed by the Fall.
  - ii. Outdoor classroom has wood rot and LCS maintenance no longer replaces wood. Plan is to open back up brick sales to help cover maintenance costs. Mr. Crowe added that the county wants composite wood used to address the wood rot issue. It is more expensive, but it lasts longer.
  - iii. Autism Awareness shirts will be available and proceeds are going to Allie Richards’ group with proceeds donated in Ricky Drake’s name – Rick has Autism and is the son of Coach Rick Drake. Chris York is helping with the shirts. Autism Awareness Month is approaching.

IV. DAC Report — Dieonne Smith

- a. January meeting content:
  - i. David Solz will be the new Director of Student Assessment as the previous Director resigned.
  - ii. House and Senate bills are changing over from one-time testing to progress monitoring and teachers will be trained over the summer.
  - iii. COVID funds are providing money for schools for additional guidance counselors.

- iv. Technology updates will be coming, including Chromebook updates and intervention software for reading.
- v. A discussion was held related to the new materials for reading being adopted – Savvas and McGraw Hill.
- vi. Mr. Crowe thanked Ms. Smith for her service as DAC representative this year.

V. Gilchrist Spotlight – Fine Arts Program – Victoria Mendenhall:

- a. Art Show:
  - i. End of this month – Grizzlies are very excited about their first big art show!
  - ii. Working with Arteme, who will be framing each student’s artwork. It will be displayed in the lunchroom and available for purchase. This will be a fundraiser and \$8 of each frame goes back to the Art Program
  - iii. There will be Food trucks and a blacklight room with an Under the Sea theme.
  - iv. Ms. Wyatt thanked Ms. Mendenhall – her Brilliant Brushes STEAM club fills up first!

II. Threat Assessment Update – Bevin Steverson:

- a. Testing season is here!
  - i. First round of testing will be right after Spring Break, April 5-7. Additional testing days will be May 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18.
  - ii. Accommodations will be made for those that need them.
  - iii. Students are taking practice tests and they are doing great!
- b. Question from the group: Is testing going to affect Gilchrist’s grade or the students in regards to results?
  - i. Third graders must score higher than a level 1 or they will be invited to the summer reading program. Third grade reading scores will be back in mid-May so they will know if they will be invited to summer reading. Fourth and fifth grade results will not come back until late summer.
  - ii. This also goes into the school grade; however, schools were not assigned grades last year. We are waiting to see what rules come out based on how many kids are tested.
  - iii. Having 95% participation and everyone well is important. We can have make-up days.
- c. Comments by Mr. Crowe:
  - i. As far as we know right now, the school accountability formula is in place. For the last 2 years, they have tabled this piece. They have not heard it will be tabled but the Governor and Legislature could change that. We do not expect schools to get grades next year due to the shift to progress monitoring. We will see how that plays out.
  - ii. We try to stress to not stress about the test. If we get to the point where the students are anxious about the test, we have not done our job. We’ve been preparing the whole year and that makes the kids ready and confident. They have been taught this, they know this, they’re just taking the test now.

III. School Safety – Cheryl Mitchell:

- a. February Quarterly Safety Meeting
  - i. Ensuring we are in compliance with all state mandated safety protocols. We are set and ready to be audited by the school safety committee and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Audit Committee. Making sure we are following protocols – doors remaining locked, safety monitor checking the doors, single point of entry at front, RAPTOR system, etc.
- b. School rekeying – complete and we have worked out the kinks – master keys now work for all doors.

- c. Full severe weather drill last Thursday and it went well. For the 2 COVID years, we have had to do modified drills; however, this time we practiced the real drill (duck and cover, knowing where to go, etc.). We will do that once a year.
- d. RAPTOR system is checking licenses of visitors, printing out labels, etc. to make sure that everyone that comes into the school is safe and not on any list.

IV. COVID Protocol Updates – Rosie Wyatt:

- a. We have 0 students and 0 staff out with COVID! Cases have decreased drastically. Previously, the district has reduced quarantine days for staff to 5 days and now we have gone down to 5 for students as well. They may return on the 6<sup>th</sup> day and still must be fever free for the last 24 hours.
- b. Students have been mask-optional for awhile but now staff and visitors are mask-optional as well.
- c. Everything else remains the same – cases are presented on county dashboard, we are working with the Health Department to make sure cases are all reported. Restrictions on mass gatherings are being lifted.
- d. District mirrors the CDC guidelines – sometimes we remain more strict but now we are in line with them.

V. Principal Comments – Scotty Crowe:

- a. Special thanks to SAC members for serving – we are required to have the SAC so we cannot do this without you. You give up valuable family and personal time for this and we would like to present you each with a flower as a small way to say thank you!
- b. This is a fun and busy time of year! We had a great week last week: Field Day, STEAM Carnival, Opening Ceremonies. The best part was having parents and families getting to be a part of it – volunteering and engaging. It reminds me of the old Gilchrist days – it’s one of our pillars.
  - i. We had over 700 people sign into the STEAM Carnival – it shows us that people are ready to be back and engaging with the school and WE are ready to have them! It was amazing and many thanks to everyone that made it a great outing. We ran out of parking and food – everyone was slammed!
  - ii. AR Celebration is on Friday.
  - iii. Testing season is here.
  - iv. Art show is coming up.
  - v. Special thanks to parents and PTO for helping us with Teacher Appreciation Week – Everyone is spoiling us and has mad us feel much appreciated.
  - vi. The School Board approved us naming the music room after Ms. Brown so we are going to have a naming ceremony in her honor in May. She will have her close family and friends in attendance.
  - vii. Next week is Spring Break – we will have a skeleton staff.
  - viii. Class picture day is on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - ix. We will have a real, in-person Gilchrist Kindergarten Orientation this year on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We need help getting kids and families registered sooner rather than later – it opens on March 21st. Kindergarten enrollment is always unknown – we do not know how many sections and classes to plan for, how many teachers to hire, etc. It’s also hard to start a class late if we get 15-20 enrolled on the last day. We have to hire someone over the weekend or split a class.
  - x. Capital Outlay Requests: Updates are needed to the school’s structure itself. We need new carpet (next summer), drainage areas that need to be fixed, replacing security cameras, and would love a multi-purpose area for when it’s raining or cold.
  - xi. Construction going around the school – took down a lot of trees. FDOT is proposing to construct a sound and visual barrier on the back side of the school. It will give a buffer to the students from I-10. Will keep them from being able to see wrecks and will help with reducing the noise of loud trucks and heavy traffic. After discussion, the SAC noted its support of this project.

- VI. Final notes: Ms. Wyatt thanked everyone for serving on the SAC and noted the great combination of parents, teachers, and business partners supporting the school. Ms. Patterson suggested that everyone recommend people to join.
- VII. Meeting was adjourned by Jen Patterson at 6:56pm.