



GILCHRIST SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: JANUARY 10, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: MEDIA CENTER

Attendance							
Teacher/Staff Members		Parent Members		Partner Members		Guests	
Scotty Crowe	X	Jennifer Weaver	X	Bridgette Rankin	A	Kim Cloud	X
Rosie Wyatt	X	Caroline Weiss	X	Abby Vail	X	Anna Ross	X
Cheryl Mitchell	X	Alyene Calvo	A			Jimmy Williams	X
Diana Haverlah	A	Breana Giblin	X				
Lynn Hatchett	X	Eva Horton	X				
Kelli Willis	A	Denis Burns	X				
Shannon Bottini	A	Melissa Tate	X				
		Vanessa Bell	A				
		Ali Palmer	A				
		Hillary Speed	A				

X = Present in person, P = Present on phone, A = Absent

Actions:

1) **Welcome & Voting – Denis Burns:**

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm
- b. Welcome!
- c. Alyene is out sick—Rosie will take the meeting minutes
- d. Denis called for the approval of the November meeting minutes. Eva Horton motioned to approve the minutes, Caroline Weiss seconded, and all were in favor.
- e. Mr. Crowe requested that we amend the agenda to allow Chief Jimmy Williams to present first so that he can attend the school board meeting later tonight

2) **Gilchrist Spotlight: School Safety – Chief Jimmy Williams:**

- a. Our SAC spotlight was chosen because our SAC members have shown interest in the area of school safety. We have had good conversations and valid questions and concerns.
- b. Mr. Crowe introduced Jimmy Williams, Chief of Safety/Security, LCS
- c. Chief Williams shared that Superintendent Rocky Hanna’s #1 priority is safety
- d. Discussion about the evolution in the area of school safety over the last few years due to school tragedies. Events of school violence move the needle of requirements, protocols & procedures; each time an event has occurred it has resulted in new safety initiatives.
- e. Some new initiatives include an armed law enforcement officer on every campus, single entry access, window tinting, 6-foot fencing, improved school cameras, a school safety department, and a Chief. These are the expectation for schools now.

- f. Chief Williams shared that it is an honor to serve this district; the goal is for all staff, parents, and students to feel safe.
 - i. Superintendent Montford hired Ron Steverson who came on board with LCS as the first professional tasked with safety in the schools.
 - ii. At the time there were very few cameras, now close to 3000; we now have a 24-hour safety/command center with dedicated professionals who work 365 days/year monitoring cameras & fire alarms. They serve as a liaison with Fire, Police, and EMS.
 - iii. John Hunkiar (predecessor) catapulted LCS into advanced school safety.
 - iv. Accessible accountable cell/office number: if other parents raise concerns, feel free to call him at any time. He encourages us to hold a SAC meeting at the Security Center if our SAC was interested.
- g. Chief Williams demonstrated the Safety/Security website
- h. If anyone submits a tip, the Principal & Safety/Security staff immediately get notified
- i. There can be trust issues around an anonymous tip system; the district utilizes Fortify Florida. Regarding the anonymity of this app: you can report your name, Safety/Security office does not know the name of the reporter (Chief Williams indicated that he was sure someone in the tech security world would be able to find it if need be). Example: case last week of an anonymous tip: someone wrote a broad statement about being assaulted & through the app they responded to gather more information from the reporter
- j. Last school year 9 guns were taken off campuses; this year we have already taken 4 (1 at a football game & 3 on high school campuses). These were found through anonymous tips.
- k. Mr. Crowe: the key is communication: "If you see something, say something"
- l. Middle & High Schools already have a system in place for reporting anonymous alerts. Chiles HS has used an anonymous alert app for the past 7 years.
- m. Our goal is to keep our campuses safe and ultimately keep guns off campus
 - i. Random security visits to high schools; students are not individually targeted rather random classrooms are visited for detection purposes; the goal is to build confidence in the community that students are not singled out
 - ii. Wandering by Principals & Safety/Security Team Leader
 - iii. Stassi is a Labrador Retriever who is trained to sniff out guns/bullets (not drugs). She is very sweet & non-aggressive. When she detects a gun, she lies down & looks for a treat. If she finds a gun/bullet, Law Enforcement is called in.
 - iv. The goal is not to find a gun on a student but rather as a preventative measure
- n. The Superintendent applied for a grant that pays law enforcement or guardians to stay at school from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm. Every site with an EDEP program will have a Law Enforcement Officer or a Guardian until 6:00 pm daily.
- o. Question by Denis Burns: are the 3000 LCS cameras UL certified? Could we offer this service to other districts for cost recovery? Mr. Crowe shared that the state has partnered with us to share our data. SESIR reports from schools: # of crimes reported on the school campus, sent to DOE, cross-referenced with police reports & school referrals.
- p. Safety/Security has hired 2 analysts, 90% of their job is to look at trends as it relates to kids/youth, & predict what is coming next (for instance they predicted the prevalence of Narcan Fentanyl, various Instagram & Tik Tok challenges, etc.)

- q. LCS has a good relationship with the LCSO Sherriff & TPD Police Chief; we communicate with them at least every week; when we hear of something we reach out & vice versa. Our goal is not to have kids arrested it's to prevent something tragic from happening on our campuses.
- r. LCS also works with Emergency Management on major weather events
- s. Question by Jennifer Weaver: is camera footage only used for safety incidents at school? What about school fights & criminal activity? Who has access to camera footage & can the public request access to the footage? Chief Williams indicated that if a lawyer or Law Enforcement Officer requests the footage, LCS requires a subpoena. If the parent of a student in the video wants to see their child's involvement we invite them to the Safety/Security office to view the footage
- t. Question by Denis Burns: being publicly funded, are community members allowed to walk on tracks during non-school hours? Most campuses are gated & locked; the public must have prior approval from the Principal to be on campus. For instance, ball teams, etc.
- u. Mr. Crowe: we appreciate Chief Williams being here with us today

3) **PTO President's Message – Caroline Weiss, PTO President:**

- a. Updates: PTO funded \$100 in all teacher accounts
- b. Completed volunteer of the year nomination process for adult, senior, and student volunteers. Thank you, Eva, for chairing this committee. The winners will be revealed on February 10th at the Volunteer Breakfast. Gilchrist nominees are sent to the district and the District committee chooses a district-wide winner.
- c. Silent Auction: mobile auction 10-day process. There is a link for the families and staff to download the app for people to bid on items. We have already collected more than \$10,000 worth of services & items. We usually bring in at least half of that.
- d. Sweetheart Soiree: February 11th in the cafeteria; \$5 a door no advance tickets
- e. Faculty meeting food provided by PTO: yogurt parfait
- f. March 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week; between PTO and Gilchrist Admin, we budget for staff meals and goodies throughout the week
- g. Grizzly Guys will help with the Sweetheart Soiree and the STEAM Carnival
- h. Donuts for Grownups January 24 & 25

4) **Progress Monitoring Updates - Anna Ross, Reading Coach:**

- a. During the last meeting, we updated everyone on PM 1 ELA & Math. We are right in the middle of the PM2 window. The majority of students tested before the winter break but they have through January 27 to finish
- b. Updated data: in ELA, the numbers of Level 1's & 2's have decreased. For PM1: in grades 3-5 math, 50% of students scored at level 1; in PM2, 70% of students scored a level 2 or higher
- c. Data chats: looking over information now comparing FAST data to STAR data to see a correlation. In the past, STAR data would predict FSA scores. During PM1 they did not know what to expect with computer-based testing but they felt a lot more relaxed during PM2.
- d. PM3 will start in May; during this session, it will resemble a testing environment similar to FSA; accommodations will be provided for students who have an IEP, 504, or ELL plan.
- e. The FAST platform provides a standards mastery checklist for teachers. Teachers can address standards that students may be missing according to their FAST results

- f. An email will be sent out to parents on how to access student scores
- g. January 23-27 is Literacy Week. The theme is “Take a Deep Dive into Literacy”
- h. Question by Denis Burns: how many students have 504 plans? Are there more now than in the past? Without the actual numbers available, anecdotally there does seem to be more 504 plans. The reason could be attributed to the fact that students can qualify for a plan based on need regardless of the presence of a medical diagnosis. Approximately, 15% of students have accommodations.

5) **School Updates – Cheryl Mitchell, Assistant Principal:**

- a. We installed a 6-foot fence in a section of the front parking lot
- b. The second round of bus evacuation drills for all busses will happen before February
- c. We are required to have 80% of our staff trained in “Youth Mental Health First Aid”. They are trained to recognize the signs/symptoms of mental illness & substance abuse. Last Monday on the teacher planning day, our faculty & staff along with people from around the district took part in the 6-hour YMHFA course at Gilchrist. All LCS employees have until July 1st to be trained; at Gilchrist, we have already achieved the 80% goal.
- d. We are currently preparing for black history month; the Black History Committee has been meeting since November. The focus this year is on black women. Ms. Ford & Ms. Mitchell will continue the trivia game which was a big hit last year. There will be grade-level projects & a student assembly at the end of the month featuring the Raa Middle School steel drummers, a poetry reading by Amanda Gorman, and student & staff performers. Each Friday, we will wear our new Black History Month t-shirt and enjoy a faculty luncheon.

6) **Principal’s Message—Scotty Crowe, Principal**

- a. Great meeting tonight. Principal comments will be brief out of respect for your time.
- b. Window for school choice through March 1
- c. Report cards will be published tomorrow
- d. Our enrollment is up; over the winter break, we lost 5 families and gained 10 families
- e. This is a busy & exciting time of year. We are buckling down before Spring Break; there is a lot of learning going on with fun activities planned as well.

7) **Final Questions/Comments – Scotty Crowe, Principal**

- a. Any questions? Good for the order?

Denis Burns thanked the group for a great meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn. Caroline Weiss motioned to adjourn & Breana Giblin seconded. Meeting adjourned 7:03 pm