

GILCHRIST SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: MARCH 7, 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	P	Brittany Kranert	P
Rosie Wyatt	X	Caroline Weiss	X	Abby Vail	P	Anna Ross	X
Cheryll Mitchell	X	Alyene Calvo	X			Debra Wiggins	X
Diana Haverlah	A	Breana Giblin	X			Debbie Hanson	X
Lynn Hatchett	X	Eva Horton	X			Heather Pearce	X
Kelli Willis	P	Denis Burns	X				
Shannon Bottini	A	Melissa Tate	P				
		Vanessa Bell	P				
		Ali Palmer	A				
		Hillary Speed	X				

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

1) Welcome & Voting – Denis Burns:

- a. Approval of meeting minutes (Denis):
 - i. Alyene Calvo motioned to approve the minutes, Caroline Weiss seconded, all were in favor.
- b. Nominations for positions for FY23/24 SAC:
 - i. Overview: currently voting on Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, and DAC representative. All board members can serve multiple terms. If you are willing to serve another year, you are welcome. Otherwise, we take nominations from the group.
 - ii. Chair: Jennifer Weaver nominated Denis Burns for a second term. Caroline Weiss seconded; all were in favor.
 - iii. Recording Secretary: Denis Burns nominated Alyene Calvo for a third term. Eva Horton seconded; all were in favor.
 - iv. DAC representative: Denis Burns nominated Kelli Willis for a second term. Caroline Weiss seconded; all were in favor.
 1. Kelli Willis gave overview of DAC representation. Meeting once a month with a packed agenda. All the schools present what they are doing, mostly around security and safety. This is Gilchrist's voice on a district perspective when they want the local schools' feedback. The communication goes both ways – DAC representative brings back information to Gilchrist. One year there were two DAC representatives to share the responsibility.
 2. Denis Burns would like to consider being DAC representative in FY24/25.

2) PTO President's Message – Caroline Weiss, PTO President:

- a. Accomplishments:
 - i. Donuts for grownups – another successful year. Considering splitting the days up next year based on last name to spread out the amount of people.
 - ii. Held Volunteer of the Year breakfast and honored all of the volunteers. Eva Horton was the Chair of that committee this year.
 - iii. Had almost 400 people at the Sweetheart Soiree.
 - iv. Mobile Silent Auction: Netted \$12,000! Will be discussing how the funds will be spend for the remainder of the year at the next meeting. Options:
 - 1. Turf - \$30,000. Pavers have already been ordered.
 - 2. Potentially use some of the funds for equipment. The Outdoor Café will be the grounds and seating; however, we do not have furniture for that.
 - 3. The Garden Club made some requests.
 - v. Nominated Prime Meridian Bank as business partner of the year. They are a true business partner. The PTO is moving to their bank at the end of the summer as well.
 - vi. In the middle of Teacher Appreciation Week right now.

3) DAC Report – Kelli Willis:

- a. New addition is having a Walk the Dog program. This is starting in high schools to detect weapons. They started with a couple of schools, and it was a big success. Now they are working through high schools and middle schools at random.
- b. The biggest conversation continues to be – how can we create a safe environment for our students.
- c. Scotty Crowe: Jimmy Williams addressed our counsel as well. They are training puppies that can detect weapons and piloting wants for metal detection as well. They will do this randomly. Neither one has been suggested at the elementary level but if you have a child in middle or high school, those are being looked at by the district.

4) Progress Monitoring Updates - Anna Ross:

- a. Finished the PM2 window - 100% of 3-5 were tested and there were less than 5 students in K-2 who could not complete the assessment. 100% attempted though. We are now moving now to PM3, which starts May 1st - 24th.
- b. With the results from the PM3 data, plus the data we get from STAR and grades, we will do another summer school. We have identified a preliminary list of 100 students considering for summer school and teachers who have already volunteered. We retained most of the teachers we had last year, and they spread the word to others.
- c. Meeting with 3rd grade - promotion and retention decisions used to be based on whether they made a level 1 on FSA last year. Since FAST is new, we can look at whole child (performance all year, show growth, etc.) to make those decisions. All students making level 1 will be invited to summer school and decision is made after that.
- d. Summer school - the ratio will be 10 students to 1 teacher. We will monitor data from beginning to end of summer school. We will try to allow for teacher to pull small groups

– this helps with targeted intervention. This is funded by the 2-year federal recovery grant to address COVID learning loss, so we are not sure if there will be summer school next year.

- e. Scotty Crowe: As part of the monthly administrators meeting the state clarified school accountability for this year. We do not have the typical metrics or formula for school accountability this year since it is a baseline year. The only metric they will use this year is straight proficiency of 3rd to 5th grade students who take PM3. The scale is 1-5: if that student is a 3, 4, or 5 they are "proficient." Three is on grade level. We will receive a school grade but there is caution because you cannot compare apples to oranges. We had a lot of metrics that went into the formula last year. There will be no money attached to the school grades this year either since it is a baseline year for everyone. They may or may not have gone in and looked at PM1 and PM2. To say a school grade is based on proficiency is difficult because it's not always fair to a child who may have made more than a year's worth of growth but still not show as proficient. We like being part of the accountability process of the "growth" and not just proficiency.
- f. Question from the audience: Will that be the case going forward?
 - i. Doubtful as next school year they will have a baseline. We will set those scales to know what a year's growth will be defined as. They will go back to a typical formula to determine learning gains and the money will be attached. We like to have that conversation with parents as well. Even if they are a 1, or even with the level 5s, how do we show growth? We make that determination internally though. We share the data we gather with the parents.
- g. Question from the audience: Did high achievement schools get additional money? A-schools typically receive School Recognition dollars. Two years during COVID we got an A-grade, but it didn't have dollars attached. This year, there will be no dollars based on recognition piece.

5) **Gilchrist Spotlight: Math Adoption – Debbie Wiggins:**

- a. Melissa O'Brien (primary) and Debbie Wiggins (intermediate) served on the district committee that chose a new math program for the school year. They listened to publishers and compared 5 math programs. Then each grade level then evaluated them to understand:
 - i. Did they meet the new standards?
 - ii. Did they help with learners who needed support?
 - iii. Is there a friendly student edition?
- b. They then ranked the 5 books according to preference and submitted it to the district office. There were parents also on the committee.
- c. They made the recommendation for Go Math, which is what we use now, but it is new and improved. Finally, the school board approved it.
- d. We will start to order textbooks, but Go Math has an online component so they can start day 1 even if they don't have the books in yet.
- e. Scotty Crowe: This year we are working with a new reading textbook as well. It is a lot of work for the teachers when you have new standards, curriculum, and assessments. This

is the first year so there is a lot of training and planning and now we are incorporating a new math adoption.

- f. Question from the audience: What is the cycle for a new curriculum? There is a 5-year renewal/adoption cycle for each core subject (math, reading, science, social studies). 5th year is Health and Foreign Language. We are encouraged to stay current with standards - science for instance- because everything evolves so fast. Now it must have an online component and it must integrate with our technology. Publishers are providing materials to all states. They state they address Florida-specific standards, but they are written to address Federal standards, so our staff must ensure they address our standards. Our kids will get their own, consumable workbook. There are also components for parents to be able to help with work at home.
 - g. Conversation about the new Parents Have the Right to Know legislation and new math program/textbooks:
 - i. New law which includes a new parent committee to review proposed new materials. This perspective has also been brought to the school level.
 - ii. There is a process for us to adopt new media center books, classroom library materials, instructional materials, paper materials, digital materials, etc.
 - iii. Next year, any new materials brought into school must be inventoried and linked so that parents can review and comment.
 - iv. Any new books provided by parents, or the PTO will have to go through an inventory process.
 - h. Question from the audience: Will SAC need to review the materials if we only meet quarterly? The school will have an internal process and protocol. There are already textbook reviewers, entities where that's what they do – there must be at least two reviews of each group. The first review is related to which grade level is appropriate and a quick synopsis. They must be vetted on a professional level. When it comes to the school, it's already been through a strict vetting process. If any parent has a question or concern. We have until next year to implement a new plan.
- 6) **School Climate Survey – Scotty Crowe:** We read every comment that our parents gave us in the survey and use that information in different ways. We read all of the positive feedback, concerns, etc., and incorporate that into our leadership meetings, SAC, and school improvement plan. Mr. Crowe covered the data and highlighted the following data points:
- a. Did not count the middle - only agree or disagree.
 - b. 83 positive comments - created themes.
 - c. Constructive:
 - i. **We should celebrate more achievements other than AR.** Other ideas could be the A/B honor roll, grades, etc.
 - ii. **Too much homework.** We try to create a homework environment that doesn't have hours of homework because we know there are a lot of other things in the evenings. For K-1, we mostly just ask about reading. We don't want students to have 2 hours of homework at night. We will talk about that internally.
 - iii. **More info on assessments** - as we're learning about them ourselves, we are trying to bring that forward. We are building this bike as we ride it.

7) **Final Questions/Comments – Scotty Crowe:**

- a. Thank you for serving this year! The SAC is important to us.
- b. Thank you to the PTO for being amazing!
- c. PTO meeting is tomorrow, and Ms. Bradshaw will join us.
- d. STEAM was amazing this year – the parking was better. We had a lot more community engagement. Comments: People needed water, liquid, and fluids throughout the school.
- e. Kindergarten orientation coming up next month.
- f. Reassignment process closed on March 1. The most reassignment requested school was Gilchrist – we had over 200 families request us for next year. It's an honor but that is a lot.
- g. Art Night is on the 30th – we are looking at the possibility of doing a ribbon cutting for the new outdoor café that night.
- h. Take your child to work day - April 27th for 3-5th.
- i. Mother and son activity - April 23rd. FSU baseball - offered \$3 per person for any Gilchrist family that day, and sit together.
- j. Grandparents' week and Bookfair
- k. Mr. Burns: We appreciate all of our faculty and staff for the time you dedicate to our kids.
- l. Question from the audience: Should we have a close-out SAC meeting since there are still a few months left of school? We can look at the calendar that comes from the calendar committee to determine if we need to move the dates.
- m. Feedback from parents that we are having too many events, so we are looking at that.

Denis Burns thanked the group and Alyene Calvo motioned to adjourn at 7:15pm.