

# GILCHRIST SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: MEDIA CENTER

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

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

## Actions:

- 1) Discuss Mental Health resources and initiatives at the November SAC meeting.
- 2) Provide updates from Progress Monitoring to the SAC.
- 3) **Welcome Message & Voting – Scotty Crowe & Alyene Calvo:**
  - a. Thank you all for volunteering your time and for the great turn-out – we are glad to be getting back to a sense of normalcy.
  - b. Discussion of the SAC:
    - i. We try to meet once a quarter and this group represents the voice of our entire school community. We appreciate all your thoughts and feedback.
    - ii. We have some positions open on the board: Chair (provides input on the agenda, runs the meeting, etc.) and Vice-Chair (supports Chair and provides back-up).
    - iii. Additionally, we will vote on new parent members
  - c. Nominations: As background for voting, the Principal appoints business partner members, teachers/staff elect other teacher/staff members, and parent members vote on parent members. Each SAC member gets on vote, but visitors and guests do not have voting privileges.
    - i. Chair – Denis Burns volunteered, Abby Vail motioned, Melissa Tate seconded, all were in favor. Denis Burns elected as SAC Chair.

- ii. Vice-Chair – Jennifer Weaver was nominated by Scotty Crowe, Denis Burns motioned, Abby Vail seconded, all were in favor. Jennifer Weaver elected as Vice-Chair.
- iii. New Parent Members:
  - 1. Vanessa Bell, Eva Horton, Hillary Speed, Denis Burns, Alessandria Palmer, Breana Giblin
  - 2. Alyene Calvo motioned, Caroline Weiss seconded, all were in favor. All new parent nominations were elected to the board.
- d. Proposed new date for November meeting:
  - i. Meeting currently scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>, voting day.
  - ii. Denis Burns motioned to move the date to November 15<sup>th</sup>, Alyene Calvo seconded, all were in favor. The November meeting will be held on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**4) Principal's Message – Scotty Crowe:**

- a. Great to see parents back in school: we had a huge orientation, huge open house, and we can feel the energy at school again. We had 875 kids in the cafeteria for the AR Kick-Off, which is something we haven't done in 2 ½ years!
- b. School size update: currently 875 students. We were projecting 830 due to COVID.
  - i. Caused a few challenges with traffic, transportation, and lunchroom but we are getting those ironed out.
  - ii. Added a Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class before school started.
  - iii. Added a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class this week.
- c. Class sizes: We meet the state required class size averages.
  - i. K-3 should be 18, we are at 17.32
  - ii. 4-5 should be 22, we are at 20.48 with the additional 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- d. SAC 101: it has been a requirement by law (Florida Statute) of every school in Leon County for the last 20 years. It is a great way to receive Parent/Community feedback as well. We meet quarterly but can meet more often as you desire. Requirements:
  - i. SAC approves the School Improvement Plan (SIP) budget when it is approved by the Legislature. We will not receive a SIP budget this year.
  - ii. SAC approves the School Recognition Dollars (includes Teacher bonus dollars) from being an A school. Teachers and staff are voting now and will then come to the SAC.
  - iii. Serves as a vital sounding board, not just for Gilchrist issues. We have one member of the SAC that serves on the District Advisory Council (DAC) to provide input into their policy, the school calendar, school board initiatives, community activities, etc.
  - iv. Additionally, one parent member, by statute in the Parent's Rights Bill, serves on the Curriculum Adoption Committee to review new curriculum – this year is the Math Adoption Curriculum.
- e. Grade A School! We are so excited and proud of the kids despite all of the challenges in these COVID years!
  - i. We received grades again this year and received an A – one of SIX in the county!

- ii. Third grade scores were phenomenal – the top in Leon County Schools and one of the top in the entire state!
    - iii. We were in the top 3-4 in the district for the content areas.
    - iv. This formula is based on a formula from the FSA.
  - f. Learning loss: Uncovered significant learning loss like many other schools in the nation. We have kids that just started with us that this is their first school. Leon County received \$6.4 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds and the #1 goal is to address learning loss. This is a 2-year grant. We will continue gathering data for these initiatives to track outcomes and we will bring more info to the next SAC meeting. Here are some of the ways the funding is being allocated:
    - i. Full-time reading coach
    - ii. First summer school in years and will have it again this next summer.
    - iii. Expanded the HEART program to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (previously 3-5), which is an afterschool tutorial program.
    - iv. We have 2 dedicated intervention teachers who work with kids that have experienced learning loss or need extra help.
    - v. Brought forward a curriculum for social / emotional learning. We have an amazing half-time social worker that works with kids and their families that are in need of support so they can be successful in school.
    - vi. Mental health support has been enhanced – we have a social-emotional curriculum called Harmony, and the New Horizons mental health counselor twice a week.
    - vii. We have allocated additional aid to ESE and ELL students as well.
  - g. New initiatives this year:
    - i. BEST standards
    - ii. FAST progress monitoring model that replaced the FSA. A baseline is being conducted now and there will be a midyear and end of year check-in. We will not receive a school grade this year since it is a baseline year.
- 5) **School Safety Updates – Cheryl Mitchell**: focusing on student safety. There are more trainings and protocols in place than we have ever had to create a safer environment.
- a. Behavior initiatives – focusing on being proactive with behavior this year. New initiatives:
    - i. Social worker on site two times a week working with different student groups
    - ii. Behavioral specialist
    - iii. New Horizons here twice a week
    - iv. Added Guidance classes as part of Special Area rotation
    - v. PBIS – Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports – have new signage. Ms. Steverson is working with groups every morning, helping with positive behavior efforts. Added to our game room, upped Bear Bucks, all to recognize positive behaviors.

- vi. New music teacher, Ms. Register – received a grant to allow her to have drum groups as a music therapy component, which we have never had before. We will have to collect data to justify the grants.
  - b. Emergency drills: this year, the drills will involve Law Enforcement participation.
    - i. Held 2 emergency drills already – one school wide fire drill.
    - ii. Having Active Shooter discussions and practicing what to do if there is a lock-down. Preparing students to know about Safety Corners.
    - iii. Held bus evacuations
  - c. Doors remain locked at all times – makes the school more restrictive but it is for safety. The days of leaving doors propped open are over as we are creating a safer environment.
  - d. Training:
    - i. Teachers and staff are trained on addressing different issues. One of the new trainings centers around what to do in the event of an active assailant.
    - ii. Question from the audience: What types of de-escalation trainings are offered since you are all the front line if there is an issue?
    - iii. Some are trained in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) tactics – part of that is de-escalation. There is a team that is required to be trained – how to handle situations with minimal force or negative interactions.
    - iv. Partnership with Law Enforcement has become closer – more interaction, communication, and trainings. We will discuss this at next SAC meeting. We are working hand in hand with more agencies and support groups related to Mental Health.
    - v. All admin and guidance professionals are trained in suicide and risk assessment procedures to determine the level of risk that a child may pose at the moment. We have a process to identify what resources and interventions that we may need for those students.
- 6) **PTO President's Message – Caroline Weiss**: We've had a great year starting off – we are excited to see new names and faces of parents getting involved! We have more sponsor banners lining the fence this year.
- a. Initiatives:
    - i. Book Fair – school made \$3,700 which is huge compared to previous years. There were a lot of people at Family Night
    - ii. Boosterthon is coming soon. Two main goals are:
      - 1. Update patio area to make it more inviting so parents can visit during lunch. Thinking of names like Grizzly Café.
      - 2. Funding Teacher's Accounts – they spend so much of their own money on school supplies, so we want them to be able to buy what they need.
      - 3. Scotty Crowe: This is our biggest fund raiser by far! Last year we raised \$50K and we are using that funding to make improvements to the school since we do not get SIP funds. The school cannot raise funds, but the PTO can.

- iii. Brought back Grizzly Guys – a way to get male role models more involved. Adam Young is leading this, and they have their first event on Thursday morning. We want them to feel welcome and invited so that dads get more involved.
- iv. Eva is our teacher liaison. We want to make sure we shower our teachers, faculty and staff with appreciation for their birthdays, etc. We also have Homeroom Parents to make sure we get messages out and get volunteers.
- b. Scotty Crowe: Thank you - The PTO has been great! Your impact is already amazing with orientation, open house, spirit sales, Grizzly Giver, etc. The more money they raise, the more we can do for the school. For example, they seed one grade level at a time with new technology because it is always changing.

**7) Gilchrist Spotlight – Standards, Curriculum, and Progress Monitoring - Anna Ross:**

- a. Made the shift to BEST (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking) standards in ELA and Math.
  - i. K-2 made the shift last year and we sound gains in foundational skills
  - ii. Allows 3-5 graders to get foundational skills for any learning loss
  - iii. This gives 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers time to fine-tun those skills
  - iv. Made the shift from 12 different strategies back to teaching students how to multiple and add instead of demonstrating different skills
- b. New curriculum – new ELA is called MyView. Teachers were trained over the summer, but some items have not yet arrived.
- c. New progress monitoring replacing FSA.
  - i. Every student must be assessed
  - ii. All computer-based
  - iii. 3-5 started today
  - iv. Assessed 3 times: first (PM1) is to see what you know, PM2 is where they will start to know it, and by PM3, that will be the end of the year window to see what they learned.

**8) School Improvement Plan discussion – Anna Ross:**

- a. Highlights:
  - i. Drop in learning gains is the clear indicator of learning loss.
  - ii. Data shows that some children didn't make a full year's growth during COVID years.
  - iii. We will start implementing math interventions due to learning loss.
  - iv. New science curriculum embeds science standards throughout the other curriculum.
  - v. School data review – have data chats with teachers monthly to watch the subgroups that will need extra assistance to make sure we are heading in the right direction.
- b. Lexia – New reading progress monitoring tool. ELL students also have Imagine Learning to help.
- c. Scotty Crowe: Proposes to have updates at each SAC meeting to show how kids are progressing and discuss the interventions that are put into place. The state sends the

numbers we've discussed up to the Federal government and that is how we receive the recovery funds.

i. SIP Plan officially up for SAC vote. Alyene motioned, Cheryl Mitchell seconded, all were in favor, the SIP was approved by the SAC.

9) **Final Questions/Comments – Scotty Crowe**: Thank you to our new Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and all new members. We look forward to a productive SAC this year.

Denis Burns thanked the group and motioned to adjourn.