



Springwoods School Advisory Council (SAC) Former Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

In Attendance:

Janeene Mainor (*Principal*)
Ken Burton (*Assistant Principal*)
Daniela Loera (*Senior Chair*)
Satasha Torres (*SAC Chair*)
Joe Weston (*Vice Chair*)
Kate Finnern (*SACI Rep*)
Chelsi Shalal (*Recording Secretary*)
Sara Rodriguez (*Parent Liaison*)

General Members

Ahmed Alimam
Duncan
Antwan Dugan
Charie Combo
Asma
Gizachew Demessie

Hamida Ayoubi
Jenna Thorn
Jennai Walsh
Omar Torrens
Nigusu Wordofa
Nicho
Katara Giles
K Butts
Juliana Acosta
Fariba
DBaerga
Rodriguez
Akalu
Nabila Naeem
Onyinye Agwuna
Patricia Bibb

1. Welcome

- Acknowledged ongoing login issues; thanked attendees for their patience.
- Upcoming meetings: 3-4 more scheduled for the year.

2. Review of Bylaws

- **Senior Chair Update:**
 - Daniela proposed addition of *Senior Chair* to the committee. Will ensure incoming committee has support and ensures continuity and ease of transition for both SAC committee and administration.
 - Janeene Mainor voiced support for addition of *Senior Chair* for continuity purposes.
 - Floor was opened for questions/concerns - none were presented. Daniela will serve as *Senior Chair* for the current year.

- **Propose general updates to bylaws as action items for the school year**
 - Daniela explained the background of the bylaws creation, mentioning new input from the county that provides guidance regarding SAC bylaws.
 - Suggested the incoming committee reviews and generates updates and suggestions to the current bylaws. These proposed updates and suggestions should be presented for consideration at the March SAC meeting.
 - Timeline for reviewing and presenting proposals for bylaw updates agreed upon by Janeene Mainor and Ken Burton.

3. Welcome New Committee

- **New Positions:**
 - Chair: Satasha Torres
 - Vice Chair: Joe Weston
 - SACI Rep: Kate Finnern
 - Recording Secretary: Chelsi Shalal
- Daniela highlighted the importance of rotating leadership every two years to introduce new perspectives.
- Committee members introduced themselves, with Daniela explaining their roles and responsibilities.
- Daniela will connect Duncan, Kate, and Satasha for coordination on SACI meetings and reporting.
- Daniela officially passed the role of *SAC Chair* to Satasha. Satasha presided over the remainder of the meeting in her capacity as *SAC Chair*.

4. Hot Topics and Budget Updates

- **Janeene Mainor provided a brief introduction to SAC.**
 - SAC vs. PTA: Janeene clarified the distinctions between the two entities and their relationship to the school community.
 - Emphasized the need for diverse representation and consistency within SAC; encouraged members to invite others to SAC meetings.
- **Reading Initiatives:**
 - **VALLSS vs. PALS:** *Ken Burton provided updates on both programs.*

PALS	VALLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identifies students at risk for reading deficiencies ● Scope more narrowly focused on phonological awareness and early literacy skills ● Provides snapshot of literacy skills ● Tests skills in isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aims to reduce reading problems by early diagnosis and immediate intervention ● Covers a wider range of language and literacy skills. ● Focused on application and understanding ● More sub-tests and added language comprehension component ● Will detect students earlier who may have trouble applying higher-level literacy skills

- Teacher feedback is that VALLS is more cumbersome and extensive and has more moving parts (involves technology).
- VAALS identifies students that PALS may have missed.
- Janeene Mainor and Ken Burton will look to see what is being released publicly in regards to VALLS and follow up with SAC as to whether or not there are “sample items” or other valuable information that can be shared with parents.
- SAC will support disseminating publicly available information to parents (once confirmed by Janeene Mainor and Ken Burton).
- **Literacy Night Update:** *Ken Burton and Janeene Mainor provided an update and overview of the recent Literacy Night event.*
 - Attendance was lower than expected (61 students).
 - Event tied to the book fair; new structure aimed to improve engagement.
 - Feedback on making future events easier for parents to participate in (online format, more languages supported, less busy time of year).
 - Suggestions included using flier updates to encourage attendance and being mindful of school events scheduling.
 - SAC can support future literacy events by assisting with fliers and advertising events to parents through different methods.
- **Budget details shared:** *Janeene Mainor provided details regarding the budget.*
 - Goal: Total salary and benefit cost should be around 95% of operating budget (around 5% left to spend in flex account).
 - Janeene Mainor shared current projections for staffing and services; operating on estimated figures until new budget confirmation.
 - Enrollment figures: Student count is taken on Sept. 30 each year for budgetary purposes. This year, SES had 852 students enrolled on 9/30 (863 students as of 10/23/24). Enrollment is significantly lower than last year.
 - Janeene Mainor will provide a more accurate update on budget at the next meeting (once the budget is finalized).

5. Updates on Improvement Plan: *Ken Burton and Janeene Mainor provided an update on the school's improvement plan.*

- Overview of the 5-year improvement plan with four main priorities:
 1. Increase overall performance in reading and math to achieve an 85% pass rate on state SOLs.
 2. Improve ELL and SLD student performance to at least 65% to narrow achievement gaps.
 3. Foster a positive climate and culture; target 90% student satisfaction.
 4. Enhance family and community engagement through a high-functioning advisory council.
- Attendance goal (ongoing) set to keep chronic absenteeism under 10%.

6. SACI Report: *Kate Finnern (SACI Rep) provided a report from the October SACI meeting.*

- Kate Finnern discussed focus areas from the SAC rubric, emphasizing:
 - consistent and advertised schedule for meetings
 - open forum with decorum
 - each SAC grouping has grade level representation (we have this)
 - all meetings have agenda
 - representation of cultural groups (know who is on the call)
 - advisory council meetings should already be going (as of September)
- SES SAC is meeting most of the items on the rubric.
- Shared SACI goal to improve two-way communication between SACI and school SAC committees.
- Briefly shared other subjects mentioned at the SACI meeting: VAALS vs. PALS; length of SAC meetings; and number of representatives.
- Kate acknowledged that the committee's work and committee chair's leadership during the last school year with regards to reviewing other the SAC at other schools has put our SAC ahead of the curb with regards to the SACI rubric.

7. Open Forum: *Satasha introduced the open forum process, encouraging community input. The floor was opened for community comments and questions.*

- Daniela raised concerns about the visibility of the school's light-up sign; suggested improvements for readability.
- Janeene Mainor shared updates on new trees planted on the playground.
- Sara Rodriguez (SES Parent Liaison) introduced herself and shared upcoming events:
 - Nov 12: National Young Readers event
 - Nov 13: Veteran motorcycle club event
 - Other initiatives aimed at engaging military-connected students and families: military ball; t-shirt drawing contest; reading events; writing letters to deployed service members, and more.

8. Plans for Next Meeting

- Focus areas for the next meeting will include:
 - School improvement updates
 - Budget discussions
 - SACI report
 - Bylaw updates

Next Meeting: December 4

Adjourned at: 7:11 PM