



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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 4th, 2024
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 6PM

In Attendance:

Janeene Mainor (*Principal*)

Sara Rodriguez (*Parent Liaison*)

Ken Burton (*Assistant Principal*)

Daniela Loera (*Senior Chair*)

Satasha Torres (*SAC Chair*)

Joe Weston (*Vice Chair*)

Kate Finnern (*SACI Rep*)

1. Welcome

- Satasha welcomed everyone to the third SAC meeting for the year.

2. Budget Update *Budget shared and reviewed by Mrs. Mainor (principal).*

- Mrs. Mainor shared and reviewed the council report with those in attendance. She walked through the layout of the report including categories and amounts.
 - Money is sometimes moved between departments to account for current school needs.
 - Bottom line budget this year is close to 6 million (compared to approximately 6.5 million last year). Drop in the budget is directly tied to lower student enrollment in the current school year (counted on September 30 each year).
 - Current council report shows that we are in good standing, but this year will be a tighter year for the school regarding budgeting. Mrs. Mainor does not expect to have much carryover funds from this year's budget.
 - Final enrollment count (Sept. 30) confirmed that two full-time teacher positions should be dropped. Mrs. Mainor walked through the consideration process for how to proceed. The ultimate decision was to reduce the two teacher positions by cutting the school wide math coach and full-time ESOL teacher (these teachers were moved to schools with a need).

- Satasha opened the floor for questions in relation to the budget update.
 - Member asked about the loss of the math coach position and how it may negatively impact school wide math proficiency and questioned why this position would be cut before other “non-academic” positions (i.e. art, music, etc.). Mrs. Mainor explained “fixed” vs. “non-fixed” positions in regards to PWCS/VA regulations. Mrs. Mainor discussed what the school is doing to fill the gap left by losing the math coach position.
 - A member asked if this is something that could be addressed by a “club” (targeting math skills). Federal money does allow the school to provide tutoring to some identified students for support.
 - A member asked if the math coach supported a specific/targeted group of students. The math coach provided school wide support through attending team meetings, observing in classrooms, providing feedback, etc.

3. Updates on School Improvement Plan *Mr. Harkins (assistant principal) provided updates.*

- Progress is being made towards goals for ESOL and special education populations.
- Progress towards positive climate and culture discussed as well as programs put in place to support it - nests, eagle eyes (5th graders), mentor model Mondays, etc.
- Continuing to build on progress towards family and community engagement.

4. SACI Report *Kate Finnern reported on December SACI meeting.*

- The meeting was focused on data and progress towards county-wide goals.
- Reading scores across the county are improving (some drop in students in grade 2, but unsure why). Math scores are also improving.
- 97% of all PWCS schools are accredited.
- VAALLS was discussed - the country hasn’t received much positive feedback.
- Security measures and improvements were discussed. Kate mentioned some additional security measures she has noticed around the school and thanked the administration for their diligence.

5. Hot Topics (Admin)

- Virginia Literacy Act Update: *presented by Mr. Harkins (assistant principal)*
 - [PWCS video](#) shared with members present.
 - Every classroom in PWCS is going to be using the Halton Mifflin Harcourt Company (HMH) in reading. This is the main reading curriculum at Springwoods. HMH is not new to Springwoods, but is now being used with more fidelity.
 - Springwoods is looking at the learning culture, focusing on student engagement

and the use of high-quality texts that align with SOL standards.

- Mrs. Mainor (principal) added that instructional resources must come from an approved list (Virginia law). This is a benefit for students moving to new schools as there is now continuity across the state.
- PALS vs. VAALLS discussion reviewed from last meeting. VAALLS is identifying more students in need of support.
- [Resources for Families](#) website shared and reviewed - family participation in learning is essential to success.
- Mrs. Mainor shared that an organization called “The New Teacher Project” visited Springwoods and were extremely complimentary of the phonics/reading programs and the way they are being taught.
- Satasha allowed the questions being left in the chat regarding VLA to be read and answered.
 - Teachers do have the ability to cater instruction to their classrooms, as long as they are not using non-approved instructional materials/resources.
 - HMH curriculum does provide a “script”, but teachers are not expected to follow it word for word. There are opportunities for extension and scaffolding built in.
 - Nonsense words do not reinforce misspelling, but it is a learning process for students as they move away from memorization to focusing on phonics.
 - VDOE standards are available on the VDOE website. HMH has been vetted to have high correlation to the Virginia standards of learning assessments.
- Virginia Quality Profile Overview: *presented by Mrs. Mainor (principal)*
 - [VDOE School Quality Profiles](#) website shared and Springwoods page reviewed.

6. Progress on Bylaws

- Updates are continuing to be made - mostly formatting and verbiage are left to be finalized.

7. Open Forum

- Satasha stated that open forum would be skipped due to the meeting being at time and questions have been addressed throughout the meeting - she invited those with additional questions to type them in the chat.

8. Plans for Next Meeting

- Reminder that the agenda is put out a few weeks ahead of the meeting. Any questions or items for discussion should be emailed to SAC at least 24 hours ahead of time.
- SAC will create a comment/submission area on the SAC webpage so parents can easily submit questions/comments. Satasha will speak to Mrs. Mainor and Mr. Harkins regarding this process and report back at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: 1/29/2025

Adjourned at: 7PM