



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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 19th, 2025
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

In Attendance:

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

General Members:

Zarnez Campbell (*teacher*)
Alexandra Lungi (*PTA President*)
Hakima Essaidi
Juliana Hoyos Acosta
Sara Lima

1. Welcome

- **Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM.**
- Spanish translation was requested by a parent. Ms. Torres volunteered to assist until Ms. Rodriguez arrived.
- **Voting Bylaws In**
 - Satasha and Daniela motioned to approve the bylaws, which had been previously reviewed via email by select members.
 - No objections were raised; the bylaws were approved.
Daniela reminded the committee that the bylaws should be reviewed again by December of next year.

2. Budget Updates

- Overview of the current budget was provided. The budget is available to the public upon request.
- The approved budget for next year has been received:
 - Goal: 95% of the budget to be allocated to personnel expenses.
 - Current projection: 96%, accounting for a new math teacher, custodian, and STEAM teacher.

- Parent inquired about potential risks to funding these positions. Mrs. Mainor acknowledged the risk and emphasized the priority to protect the STEAM position.
- The decision on moving forward with the 96% allocation will be finalized in the coming weeks.
- Class size grant funding will also be factored into the budget.

3. Updates on School Improvement Plan

- No official update was provided as the end-of-year report is still in progress.
- Attendance data shared by Mr. Harkins:
 - Chronic absenteeism is at 9%.
 - Springwoods ranks 12th out of 63 elementary schools in attendance.

4. SACI Report (Duncan and Kate)

- **April Meeting:**
 - Superintendent attended.
 - Discussion on the potential addition of Deans of Students (DOS) at the elementary level, though not currently budgeted.
 - DOS role would help ensure consistent behavioral responses across schools.
 - Improvements coming to the Code of Behavior for better consistency.
- **May Meeting - Duncan provided update**
 - Topics included:
 - The role of AI in education (student impact, safety, academic implications).
 - Addressing the needs of diverse learners.
 - Strong attendance at SACI meetings this year.
 - Drafting of the annual SACI report and bylaws is underway.

5. Hot Topics (Admin)

- **SOL Testing (Mr. Harkins)**
 - SOL testing expected to conclude mid-next week, except for expedited retakes (scores 375–399).
 - Over 80 students currently identified for retakes.
 - Preliminary pass rate: 75% for reading and math—comparable or slightly ahead of last year.
 - Letters with scores and details will be sent to families soon.
 - Teachers are actively reviewing data and preparing students for retakes.
- **Dean of Students (Mrs. Mainor)**
 - Currently, Dean of Students positions are only planned for secondary and not elementary.
 - Springwoods has low disciplinary infractions and ranks among top-performing schools for discipline support.

- Documentation of disciplinary infractions - support could be used here, as it does take a lot of time.
- Springwoods has not requested a Dean of Students, and the data does not currently justify a DOS position.
- **Additional Hot Topics**
 - Mr. Campbell providing information about questions sent ahead.
 - **Teacher Retention and Staffing**
 - SW serves approximately 900 students with a 19:1 student-teacher ratio (PWCS average is 23:1).
 - Class size reduction grant targeted for K–3 next year.
 - Many classrooms already have co-teachers.
 - Over 80% of current teachers have been at SW for more than 5 years.
 - Retention fluctuates due to external factors like military families.
 - **Testing Anxiety and Holistic Teaching**
 - Support provided through school counselors (individual, group, and class-level).
 - Positive school-wide activities to reduce SOL anxiety:
 - Pep rallies, parades, and recognition of student effort.
 - Emphasis on “5-star effort” rather than pressure for high scores.
 - Students are familiar with test formats due to year-round practice.
 - **Open Discussion**
 - Mid-year teacher departures: Rare, but support is offered when necessary.
 - Elementary educators face unique stressors that can impact retention.

6. Open Forum

- Student Placement for Next Year
 - Teachers place students based on learning styles and personality fit.
 - Parent requests can be submitted but may not include specific teacher names.
- Participate/Ambassador Teachers
 - Rigorous screening and high experience levels (5–15 years, often international).
 - Students with ambassador teachers performed strongly on SOLs this year.
 - ESOL students are not necessarily placed with multilingual teachers.
 - Parents encouraged to meet teachers at Open House to ease concerns.
 - Additional communication about participate program would need to come from the county.
 - No new ambassador teachers expected next year.

7. Plans for Next Meeting + Adjournment

- Back to School Night
 - SAC info table planned for Back-to-School Night.
 - Request for county interpreters for the event.
 - Satasha will collaborate with Mrs. Mainor to create a multilingual SAC flyer.

- Future meeting formats are under discussion and may change depending on county guidance.
- Robocalls and reminders were suggested to improve meeting attendance.
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.**