



Springwoods School Advisory Council (SAC)

Former Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

March 15, 2023

virtually via Zoom

1. Welcome & New Logo (1 min)

The Chair thanked Omar for designing the logo and Ms. Dcales for printing the flyers for the first event. Everyone accepted the logo and welcomed its use.

2. Hot Topics (~ 5mins)

Garden – A team has been formed to upkeep the garden and revive it. Even an irrigation system is discussed. The garden will provide new meeting and study grounds as well as a space for military students to find comfort when family members deploy. Reunion meetings. Garden is funded by Purple Star Grant Funding (military family support funding).

Military Moms – A recent military moms meet & greet event on February 21st was a great success. Kimberly Simpson from Quantico was there provided information about all resources available. Planning on have frequent meetings, monthly or every other month. Many connections were developed.

SOL Testing – This is for grades 3 to 5. Testing window opens in Mid-May. Parents should be hearing from their teachers soon.

Attendance – Elementary school average throughout county is about 19%. We are down to 21% from a high of 28% towards the end of 2022. Sending nudge letters and following up with chronic cases. County Attendance Officer is also providing support for chronic cases. Mrs. Dcales also has been talking to people. We keep seeing improvement. We now have 100% attendance signs on doors of classes that reach full attendance. Attendance continues to be an issue, but it has improved.

3. Budget updates (~ 5mins)

March 6, 2023 report shows flex-fund sitting at a \$130,565.12 balance.

- Major expenses still to come from that amount. Expenses like:
 - Substitute teachers.
 - Intervention services for PALS testing results for tutors (about 50k).
- Still trying to aim to carry about 1% to next year.
- Mr. Harkins (our second Asst. Principal) is only budgeted to 0.6, so we are reliant on that flex-fund carryover amount.

4. Updates on Improvement plan (~25-30 mins)

Different platform that will house the Improvement Plan.

Action Plan 1 - Significant actions and barriers to CLT (Collaborative Learning Team) Model and how it compares with Planning Time.

- Administration undertook a reeducation of staff and now there are better expectations of how it should work.
- CLT time now is a lot better
 - Every child's name is addressed and their assessment results
 - Under and over performers addressed so that everyone can be provided what they need.
 - Standards are discussed and what materials will be used.
 - An analysis of what was done and how did it work.
 - Mid-year review was stellar.
 - CLR structure was revised.
 - Q: Is this additional time spent by teachers or time was already there and not used.
A: It is still a very fluid situation. Still working to distinguish between CLT and planning time. Ultimately the goal is to make the time more effective. One group of teachers meets after hours and gets paid for the extra time spent. Most rearranged their planning time to include both CLT and Planning.

Action Plan 2 - Belonging feel

- Tackling of attendance issue, which by increasing feeling of belonging should improve.
- Morning meetings still being held (these are community building conversations). Teaching the language of belonging and what it means at the morning meetings to help with when the students are surveyed.
- Language and Engagement – Over 200 folks came the Bilingual Family Night.
 - The SAC was there present to help increase awareness.

5. Discuss progress of PAC visibility and *Parent Involvement Survey Draft* (~5-10mins)

The next possible opportunity is Family Engagement Night on May 25th, 2023, 6 – 8.30pm.

The survey draft was presented. The board agreed that a survey can be useful. The following points were discussed:

- When should survey be given? Options: last quarter and/or second quarter of following year
- Should a full or mini-version be given?
- What will be an expected and acceptable return rate? 10% more? Less? What will we gain if only 3% return the survey? Is any data good data to start?
- How should the survey be distributed? Newsletter? SPES School status? Should teachers select a sample of parents to take the survey? (diversity, fairness, and transparency could be a problem) Should teachers be asked to include the survey in their usual communication?

Concerns were expressed:

- Does SPES overcommunicate (to include in the survey)?
 - Maybe this should be asked on the survey
- Next steps: the survey will be sent to SAC for suggestions and editing. In the next meeting, a possibly final version will be presented. The decision will be made to either launch the survey in the 4th quarter or continue to work on it.

6. Open Forum (5mins)

SPES is looking at large school needs to adjust to the ever-growing number of students. We now have 904 students; anticipating 1000+ students for next year and needs have changed.

We still only have two front office staff members. Load has increased significantly, but no increase in pay when compared to peers that deal with less.

23% of SPES students are below poverty. We are proud to be a large school, but we are not Title 1 school. Title 1 would come with additional funding.

1000+ students to include a preschool program significantly increases custodial demands.

Custodial team has been doing fabulous work even with a substitute on staff, they have to work really hard and the workload is more with no additional funding from county (all schools regardless of size get the same amount).

Next year, portable classrooms will be back. Gifted and Orchestra will likely be the main users.

There will be 6 sections for K, 1, and 5th grade. There will be 5 sections for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade.

The question arose when the next zoning will take place. Principals will inquire about zoning timelines and possible effects for SPES.

Concerns were brought up regarding security for portable classrooms. Children will need to leave for the bathroom for example. A Security Assistant will be starting in April.

And there is also a resource officer that provides support.

If needed, the STEAM Lab could be a temporary or permanent classroom.

7. Possible agenda items for next meeting (~ 3mins)

Hot topics

Budget Updates

Improvement Plan Updates

Personnel updates

Survey Revisions – Decision when to publish survey

Adjournment

8. Adjournment

The meeting closed at 8.42pm