



## **Springwoods Elementary School (SPES) Springwood School Advisory Council Notes**

**DATE:** Wednesday 9.6.23

### **CALL TO ORDER 6:02pm**

Welcome and grounding of the purpose and functioning for SAC, which is composed of Springwoods community members and the SPES administration. This body convenes to support school leadership, working in tandem with the school improvement plan, with the ultimate goal for Prince William County schools to have a working and functional School Advisory Council for every single school.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Principal Mainor  
Vice Principal Harkins  
Vice Principal Burton  
Daniela Wagner-Loera  
Kia Woods  
Joe Weston  
Jennai Freeman  
Maria (Juliana) Acosta  
Chelsi Shalal  
Duncan Torkornoo  
Tamara Harvey  
Richard Skeem

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Our Strategic Priorities and Implementation Goals for the 2023/24 academic year are as follows:

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

Our reading focus is to strengthen English language learners (EL) student performance. Our focus for math is to strengthen students with disability performance (SWD) because we believe that a rising tide lifts all boats. If we can concentrate on those, those cohorts will raise overall achievement for all students.

#### **1. Learning & Achievement for All**

- a. Increase overall performance on Math SOLs, emphasizing SWD performance.
  - i. Overall: 85% goal, last year: 77%



- ii. SWD: 60% goal, last year 44%
  - b. Increase overall performance on Reading SOLs with an emphasis on EL student performance.
    - i. Overall: 85% goal, last year: 77%
    - ii. EL: 60% goal, last year 47%
- 2. Positive Climate & Culture**
  - a. Increase student attendance for students with chronic absenteeism.
    - i. Goal: less than 10%
    - ii. Last year: 17% (Highest last year was at about 27%)
- 3. Family & Community Engagement**
  - a. We want to increase our family engagement through attendance at academic events.
    - i. Goal: At least 75% of families participating.

### **Implementation Goals:**

- **Math**
  - Have students speak in complete sentences
  - Have students use total response signals to check for understanding
  - Active participation in high-functioning CLTS focused on unpacking and weekly name and need data conversations
- **Absences**
  - Weekly scheduled meetings for the SPES attendance team with appropriate and timely interventions for identified students
  - Students tracking personal attendance goals
  - Classroom celebrations and school recognitions for meeting attendance goals
    - Last year, we were at 17% absenteeism; we started the year at 26% and brought it down to 17% chronic absenteeism, which is a significant improvement but needs to be less than 10%.
    - Any student who misses 18 or more days counts against us for that chronic absenteeism. One of the things we are working on is not just our unexcused absences but our excused absences.
    - Research indicated a direct correlation between chronic absenteeism and learning factors.
    - Having students across 3 zip codes contributes to attendance challenges.
- **Reading**
  - Have students participate in structured conversations
  - Have students participate in structured reading and writing activities



- Active participation in high-functioning CLTS focused on unpacking and weekly name and need data conversations
- **Family Engagement**
  - Large school zone across 3 zip codes presents challenges for access to the building for events
  - School events (Back to school night/conferences) focusing on supporting learning at home
  - Tracking family participation
  - 100% of "At Risk" families engaged in conversations regarding academic progress and next-step resources
  - We want to increase our family engagement through attendance at academic events. We would like to see parent participation at 75%. We recognize the uniqueness of having a student population across three zip codes and have those families still feel like this is the neighborhood school.

### **NEW MEMBER VOTE IN**

This mark in the agenda is the opening for our new members and representatives to agree that they continue to be interested in serving on our committee, and for anyone who disagrees to speak up and share the reason why not to accept the people.

Confirmations included:

### **SAC Representatives**

- Chelsea Shalal
- Joe Westin
- Denise Baerga
- Maria (Juliana) Rodmer Acosta
- Tamara Harvey
- Jennai Freeman
- Richard Skeem

### **SACI Representative**

- Duncan Torkornoo

Thank you and Welcome to SAC!



### **OPEN Forum DISCUSSION**

- There is a desire to help parents understand when to keep the kids home and when to send the children.
- Suggestion to provide better methods to help parents know how to support children's learning.

**SAC Action Items:** Create a flyer to help parents realize when to stay home and when to go to school.

- An email will be sent by the SAC Chair with next steps next week (Tuesday, September, 12, 2023). Please volunteer to assist with flyer.
- The idea is to explain why attendance matters so much to our school and to us as parents. What if we have a school that loses accreditation?
- Parents are encouraged to email questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7.22pm

### **NEXT MEETING**

December 6, 2023