

Sawgrass Springs Middle School

SAC Minutes – September 5, 2024

Attendance:

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Sawgrass Springs Middle School Advisory Council was held in the media center on September 5, 2024. Co-Chair Fran McMahon called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Minutes:

May minutes were emailed out and shared

Luisa Kupka motions to approve; Robin Reccasina seconds – All in favor - May minutes approved

Old Business:

None shared

New Business:

1. Role of SAC
 - a. Make decisions to support the school to continue forward progress for the school
 - b. Generate and approve the School Improvement Plan
2. Membership of SAC
 - a. PTA – Mrs. Gebbia
 - b. SAF Chair – Mrs. Leath
 - c. ESE Parent – Mrs. Snead
 - d. Business Partners – Robin Reccasina, Nicole Kelly
 - e. BTU – Riedmayer
 - f. Title 1 – Mr. Desruisseaux
 - g. Non-Instructional – Mr. Auguste
 - h. Instructional – Ms. Kupka, Mr. Sealy, Mr. Fink
 - i. Gifted Parent – still a need
 - j. ESOL Parent – still a need
 - k. I-Zone Rep – Mrs. Haggerty
 - l. SGA / NJHS Student Representatives – still a need
3. By-Laws
 - a. No changes to by-laws from last year
 - b. Valerie Leath motions to approve by-laws; Mary-Beth Gebbia seconds the motion
 - i. All in favor – by-laws approved
4. Focus – Mr. Desruisseaux

- a. All parents should be using and referencing the new Focus portal for grades, attendance, etc.
- b. Next meeting – will be included in the reports list of the agenda
- c. Support table at Open House

Reports:

1. Principal's Report – Mrs. Wessinger
 - a. Accountability Money – Has not rolled over yet
 - i. End of the year we had about \$11,000 and anything the teachers don't use in Class Wallet would dump into this pot; however, nothing new is coming from the state
 - b. Schedule Option Exploration – would like to ask the staff to explore an alternative schedule – block schedule
 - i. Concern is that students are being sent into a block schedule without preparation that we can help with here; students struggle with organization and structure
 - ii. Exploration Vote tomorrow – is the staff interested in exploring the option
 - iii. Cost neutral for the school; teacher benefit for additional periods if they want; Student – 55 minutes is not always enough to really dig in and do engaging lessons and students get additional elective options; can give everyone a focused study hall/remediation/acceleration
 - iv. Concerns – Teacher – only get content every other day; Classroom management and finding things for kids to do for a 90 minute period
 - c. Review of School Grade
 - i. 4 measures – Achievement, Learning Gains, Acceleration Success, Lowest Quartile (students that need the most support)
 - ii. School needed 64% of points and that's what we earned
2. Safety and Security Report
 - a. Mr. Colon – Security Specialist
 - i. Introduced himself to group
3. SAF Report
 - a. 25-26 Calendar – district gave one proposal; calling it the “optimized” calendar
 - i. August 11 start date; June 2 last day for students
 1. Full week for Thanksgiving
 2. Does have some Early Release Days
 3. Spring Break is moved up a week (March 13 – March 20)
 - b. Policy 5000 – Name, Image and Likeness policy
 - i. Mostly impact the high schools
 - ii. Not something the district can support or be behind
 - iii. Lots of education that is needed for Parents – will have Parent University meetings

- c. School Choice – clarifying Policy 6400
 - i. North Area moves to support District Advisory on School Choice
 - 1. Parents know sooner about reassignments than previously
 - d. Mental Health Balance and SEL for students
 - i. Was lots of conversation and will probably come back to this conversation
- 4. BTU Report – Mrs. Riedmayer
 - a. No news from BTU at the moment
 - b. School Stewards will monitor the schedule exploration vote Friday, Sept 6
- 5. Title 1 – Mr. Desruisseaux
 - a. Introduction to Title 1
 - i. Depending on population of school economically the school can qualify for additional funding from the Federal government
 - b. Need to complete a e-binder to document how money is spent
 - i. Budget – significantly smaller budget this year
 - 1. Professional Development for the teachers
 - c. Parents need to complete the Student/Parent Compact – was sent home in the first day packet & the Survey
 - d. Also need to show parent engagement activities – have to show that we are encouraging parents to be involved and given the opportunities to be involved
- 6. Community Partners
 - a. Nicole Kelly – Equitable
 - i. Advisory on retirement accounts for staff/teacher; also assist small businesses
 - b. Robin Reccasina – Sawgrass Nature Center
 - i. Discussed Ducks Unlimited Certification pathway
 - ii. Donut Fundraiser on website
 - iii. Gala – November 2 - Sawgrass Springs has had a table in the past
- 7. PTA – Mary-Beth Gebbia
 - a. Mix and Mingle Event – September 18 from 6-8
 - b. 4 meetings this year – rotate different restaurants
 - i. Election meeting will be at the school in May
 - c. Send an email out about possible pink breast cancer awareness shirts for October
 - d. 88 members
 - i. 23 staff signed up
 - e. Shirt Contest – with gator and “Maintaining the Gold” theme
 - i. Through Art classes
 - f. Holiday Shop in December – one night event
 - i. Teachers help man the shop
 - g. Mobile Stationary Cart – paper, pens, pencils, etc.
 - i. For when students run out of supplies – like a school store

Motion to adjourn – Valerie Leath motions at 9:06 to adjourn; Marc Desruisseaux seconds – All in Favor