

Westpine Middle School

SAC Minutes – October 7, 2021
Cafeteria and Teams @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Please sign in at each meeting for SAC and SAF

Meeting Called to Order:

A meeting of the Westpine Middle School Advisory Council was held in the cafeteria on October 7, 2021. The meeting was called to order by SAC Co-chair, Lasondria Young, at 6:11 p.m.; seconded by Geneveve Barnes. Jennifer K. Roberts will record minutes for this meeting.

Minutes:

- September 2021 Minutes were motioned for approval by Ms. Barnes; seconded by Mr. Howard

Old Business

- Campus Security
 - o Security Specialist, Mr. Axtell, introduced himself and spoke with the attendees about safety and security answering any questions they may have asked.
 - Question: Do we have fire drills? Yes
 - Question: Do we conduct emergency drills? Yes
 - We have actually had a real emergency on campus, there was a minor kitchen fire. The staff and students were promptly evacuated.
 - Mr. Axtell can be reached via email at scott.axtell@browardschools.com
 - o School Resource Officer (SRO) Izquierdo, also introduced himself to the parents and discussed what he does on school grounds pertaining to safety. He addressed some of the pertinent safety concerns when it comes to our students.
 - Safety Concern: Students are running into traffic across from the school parking lot and committing violations at the adjoining park.
 - If this trend continues, students will be given citations.
 - Safety Concern: Students are arriving before 8:15 a.m. and remaining after 3:30 p.m.
 - There are no adults to watch these students during those times.
 - Safety Concern: Students are being dropped off by their parents early and leaving campus to walk to the gas station or park, instead of staying on campus.
 - Please assist us by not dropping off your children someplace other than the campus or at a time when they can be supervised.

New Business:

- SAC Bylaws
 - o A motion was made to approve the bylaws. It was seconded by Mr. Howard.
- SAC Membership and Attendance Verification was presented by Co-chair, Ms. Barnes
 - o Attendees should always sign in for every meeting they attend.
 - o We are still in need of a parent for Gifted to complete our composition.
- School Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - o The SIP has been completed and submitted
 - Mrs. Young displayed and discussed the information the SIP provides about the school, including the federal aspects.

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
 - Ms. Roberts, as the SEL Liaison, discussed how SEL is utilized the first 10 minutes of every school day.
 - Beginning October 4th through October 15th, all students will complete a district SEL survey. Parents were giving until September 24th to opt their children out of it.
 - To address the SEL of the staff, a Zen room has been created for them on campus.
 - As part of including the staff in SEL activities, Westpine will be recognizing Teachers of the Month, staff birthdays, and we will have our first Cook-Off on October 20th.

- Verizon Innovative Learning School (VILS)
 - Student iPads were distributed September 13th – September 15th. They are still being distributed to students who missed the deadline per their completed paperwork.
 - Students and staff are encouraged to take good care of their devices. Should it go missing, it must be reported to the school immediately.

- Ask BRIA
 - Mrs. Young discussed what Ask BRIA is and the benefits it provides for their students
 - It's available on Canvas via Teams
 - Students can receive FREE live tutoring from 3:30 – 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.
 - It includes Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies
 - It helps with skills review, homework, test/quiz review, content review and more.

Title I

- Ms. Kesneck, our Title Liaison, asked if there was any parent feedback regarding the SIP with the Title I addendum
 - No input provided by teacher, parent, and community.

Principals' Report

- Students
 - Afterschool clubs are up and running
 - They will be offered virtually and face-to-face
 - Westpine is celebrating two students who made a perfect score on the ELA FSA last year:
 - Tariq King
 - Yulin Wu
 - They both received a letter from Ron DeSantis and a prize from the school
 - Policy 5309 – School Unified Dress Code
 - At the beginning of each school year, parents have the first 10 days to fill out a waiver for any reason
 - The school unified dress code is a policy that should be voted on every 3 years
 - Mr. Johnson discussed how students are changing clothes when they get to school or not adhering without a waiver
 - The question is... why should the student still be penalized if they are still present and attending class?
 - Mr. Johnson asked the parents if this is something they would seek to get rid of and how the voting procedures include it being presented to the community for a vote on whether or not to continue the Unified Dress Code policy

- Community
 - On September 30th, we had a visit by Assistant Deputy Mayor Guzman and the Community Liaison Angel Gomez
 - Ms. Guzman met with a Civics class to discuss city parliamentary procedures and share her story
 - She also offered applied learning opportunities through the city which are aligned with

- state Civics curriculum.
 - Westpine Marketing Video
 - Will be shown at feeder school events
- Parent Training s Past and Present
 - On September 28th, Westpine held a Literacy & Technology Night hosted by our coaches, Ms. Zavala (Reading Coach) and Ms. Keating (Math Coach)
 - Our VILS Parent Night with Ms. Rosen will be held sometime in late October
 - The exact date is TBD
 - On November 16th at 6 p.m., we will host our Cambridge Informational Night for elementary feeder schools.
- Security Concerns
 - Students have been trying to leave the campus once they've been dropped off in the morning.
 - Always check your child's social media and text conversations
 - Some apps include Instagram, Discord, and Tik Tok
 - Some of the Tik Tok challenges have been including violations on school grounds. Please speak with them about the consequences of completing these acts.
 - If your child has two calculator apps on their phone, one of them is an app that hides what they're looking at.
 - The Accountability Fund Balance is currently at \$29,667.30. These dollars are rolled over and replenished on a yearly basis.
 - Mr. Johnson is asking for \$3,994.44 and \$3,260.97 = \$7,255.41 for vinyl wrap for the exterior windows of the administration and guidance offices, the cafeteria, the media center, and the bus loop. The purpose of the vinyl covering is to provide protection from possible intruders from seeing into open spaces where students and staff congregate.
 - Mrs. April Balzanti made a motion to approve the funds needed for the vinyl covers, Mrs. Lemonier seconded the motion.
 - A new buzzer system was put in place at Singe Point with updated cameras that are connected to BSO and City of Sunrise Police Department.
- Detention
 - Mr. Johnson asked for \$1,700 from the Accountability Funds to pay for teachers to cover detention after school for 20 Mondays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
 - Detention is a consequence offered by the discipline matrix offered for numerous violations which will include a discipline assignment.
 - Mrs. April Balzanti motioned to approve the \$1,700 for detention, it was seconded by Cindy Jagne.
- Instruction & Curriculum
 - An adjustment was made to the STEAM elective due to the release of 1 teacher due to low enrollment
 - There were 3 delimit positions and 2 were filled, therefore only 1 teacher had to be surplussed
 - All but one STEAM class had to be eliminated.
 - The current teacher will now be teaching Science
 - After school tutoring will begin on November 2nd every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30 – 4:30 for all subject areas but Math and Reading.
 - This will include a homework help room utilizing Ask BRIA
 - Winter and Spring Break ELO/Failure Prevention Program
 - This will be provided for students at-risk of failure for 1 week or 4 days
 - The afterschool tutoring and Winter/Spring Break ELO will last one week at 4 hours per day to provide students with an opportunity to meet virtually with a subject area teacher to complete any missing assignments or tests with the intention of minimizing the number of students with failing grades (Fs).

- Canvassing Volunteers
 - Approximately 6,000 students are still not attending school.
 - Teachers went door to door asking parents why their children were not attending school at all.
 - Some explanations included:
 - Students changing schools
 - An error in the system
 - Parent can't get the student to attend school
 - Students filling out Back to School documents
 - At the end of the day, the parents are legally responsible.
 - Pinnacle and Ask BRIA Resources
 - Mr. Johnson reiterated the use of these valuable resources to parents.
- Westpine's Book Fair
- Will take place from November 1st – November 5th
 - Parent volunteers are needed. Please contact Mrs. Fleming for more information.

Open Agenda

- Mrs. Balzanti addressed the Equity Liaison, Ms. Barnes concerning Down Syndrome Awareness. Ms. Barnes explained the district is providing information and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Cindy Balzanti talked about the wonderful benefits of bringing the Title I van to schools. They currently offer not just books, but also educational games.
- Picture Retakes will occur October 12th
 - This is for any student who was absent on Picture Day, is a new student, or would like to purchase a picture package.
- Westpine e-Sports came in at 1st place against Walter C. Young
- Thank you to Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Wandel for providing students with an amazing STEAM experience

The next meeting will be held November 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Meeting adjourned

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Young; seconded by Mr. Johnson. The motion was unanimously accepted at 7:31 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer K. Roberts, SAC Secretary

Approval Date: November 7, 2021

