

Westglades Middle School Advisory Council Minutes for Friday, March 1, 2024

Call to Order- 8:24am

Approval of February 2024 Minutes

- Motion to approve: Mr. Goldberg
- Second motion: Ms. Walker
- All approve

Current Budget:

- Accountability Funds-\$20,088.91*

School/SESIR Update: Ms. Schwartz

- Positives
 - Congressman Moskowitz Visit- Congressman Jared Moskowitz brought government straight to the halls of Westglades Middle School on February 9, 2024. During his visit, he met with 7th grade Civics students and engaged in an open discussion, making the often abstract concepts of Civics and government more relatable and accessible to these middle schoolers.
 - Suicide Prevention Contest Winner- Westglades Middle school student Samantha Feldman has won a countywide art poster contest aimed to help raise awareness for suicide prevention throughout Broward County schools. Samantha entered the contest because she felt that this was an important cause and wanted to let other students know that they are not alone, there are people who care and want to help them.
 - Character Playbook will be presented to our students at a student assembly. The assembly teaches students how to establish and maintain healthy, supportive relationships with their classmates. Miami Dolphin players, Miami Dolphin Cheerleaders, and a Medal of Honor recipient guide our students through meaningful discussions and student are given an opportunity to ask questions. The event will occur on 3/5 and students and staff are encouraged to wear their Miami Dolphin gear on that day.
 - Tech Gateway Day- Westglades held a "Tech Gateway Day" which was an opportunity for our CTE students to learn about careers from local IT companies. Michael Corbit, the VP of Business Development of Career Source was here and presented to Ms. Gray and Ms. Nicol's classes. This was an awesome event for our kids so they know what opportunities await them.
 - Flag Football Record- Boys and Girls teams advanced to first round of playoffs but did not advance to next game.
- Important & Upcoming
 - Cambridge Update- Our school has applied for Cambridge and our ELA department will be getting training on March 22nd. Our school goal is to have the Cambridge program run through all ELA classes so every child gets exposure to the program. We will be implementing Cambridge during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Letter from Mr. Bianchi
 - I appreciate the concern our community has shown with an incident that occurred on Friday, February 16th. Out of respect for privacy for the student involved, no one at Westglades will not be addressing this or any other specific incidents involving a child going to our school. Incidents involving any child at our school may never be shared, and the discussion of any incident involving a student without the approval of their parents violates FERPA law.

A discussion where someone has little to no knowledge of an incident other than posts on social media can be extremely irresponsible, negligent, and rife with errors and misinformation that can create falsehoods and damage surrounding a situation while violating a student's right to privacy and protection.

With that said, I feel it is necessary to share the school and district resources as well as initiatives that our school has engaged in to assist the mental health and wellness of our students. This is a tenet of what we do at Westglades Middle School and our students' ability to receive a high-quality education in a loving and nurturing environment remains the primary focus of our school.

New Business:

- ELL Parent Update- Ms. Ortega
 - This is to share with you the successful turnout of the HANDS ON TRAINING to Parents on How to Navigate (Virtual Counselor, Pinnacle, Naviance, Canvas) held today at our school.
 - I would also like to thank Ms. Iraheta, Ms. Eraso and Ms. Cardoso for the organization of a great meeting, and highlight their extraordinary dedication, commitment, professionalism and how great they operate as a team. It has been a pleasure working with them. I thank them on behalf of all the ESOL parents for all they do for our kids. It is a privilege to have them at our school!
 - The participation of NJHS students was also key for welcoming the parents, guiding them to the media center and assisting with the individual attention offered today to each parent. We thank them and Mr. Gurr for that.
 - We also would like to thank Ms. Stratos for setting up the projector and getting the computer cart ready for us.
 - We are looking forward to continuing to serve our ESOL community at Westglades.

Parent Concerns:

- SESIR Clarification- when does it get updated, where can it be found (more info to be shared at PTO Meeting)

Next Meeting April 5, 2024 *SAC/SAF Combined Meeting*

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50am