

SARASOTA ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2014

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) MEETING

Location:

Sarasota Academy of the Arts
4466 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, FL 34232

Council Members Present in Person:

Cecilia Blankenship, School Principal
Kathy Bechtel, School Staff Member
Jeffrey Kolowith, School Staff Member
Joseph Solano, School Board Member
Sabrina Lugo, Parent and SAC Secretary
Leyanit Barron-Moreno, Parent

Council Members Absent:

Slade Williams , SAA Student President

Guests Present:

Julianne Ohanian

Call to Order:

Joseph Solano called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

REPORTS:

Joseph asked if we had any more ideas about recruiting a community member. No new ideas were suggested. Members will continue to think about possible members to recruit to the Council.

Principal's Report:

Cecilia pulled District FCAT scores and over 50% were at risk for math but their scores are focused for charter schools. On FCAT scores for 4th through 8th grade, a small amount of kids received a 1 on FCAT and they're in remediation. She is not sure FCAT scores will do us any good at this time.

We are using State approved textbooks; our reading book is the same that is used in Sarasota County public schools but the math book is different.

Cecilia received an email from State saying its time to review and modify the SIP.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the December 19th meeting were distributed and reviewed by all. Sabrina moved to approve the minutes from December 19th. The motion carried and minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Discussion:

Goal #5 is what we need to look at:

Goal #5: The lowest 25% of the student population who were administered the FCAT last Spring will show a 10% improvement.

Benchmark scores in Math and Science gives the teachers ideas of what to work on for remediation. FAIR is designed to be an indicator of how well a child will perform on the FCAT. The only time it comes into play is with Kindergarten and 1st Graders. You will want to see improvement from Fall to Spring.

Student growth is part of the school grade. Report cards will go home soon. We should ask teachers about their thoughts on how the lowest 25% of their students will do on the FCAT. Cecilia will try to get printout of lowest 25%.

FAIR testing will be done by the end of next week so we should then be able to evaluate SIP Goal #2.

Goal #3 – nothing yet.

Literacy night was very successful. We had 89 families who signed in. We suspect there may have been more. The kids were very excited about the books.

We have had a big increase of parent volunteers. Parents are asking for volunteer opportunities in the evenings and weekends. The school will have to tag every item paid for with State money so that activity might create volunteer opportunities. We could also come up with "take home" volunteer work for those who cannot perform them at the school.

A suggestion was made of having a weekend workday for volunteer hours one weekend a month. Make that a goal.

Student Recognition: Jeff would like to see more kids recognized. Specifically, the kids that "are not quite there". Recognition to those kids might give them the motivation and confidence to excel.

Cecilia mentioned recognizing kids for things other than academics. Jeff suggested award ceremonies for Honor Roll, but create math, reading, etc.. awards.

Sabrina mentioned the community of caring award ceremony that Brentwood has at the end of each year for kids to demonstrate the five acts of caring, such as random acts of kindness, forgiveness, etc...

Kathy and Cecilia discussed a dinner. We're putting money into Character Ed. We should have kids recognized for Art, Music, etc..

The next ice cream social for academics is in February.

Jeff suggested doing something every quarter for the students to try to affect behavior.

On February 22nd, the drama teacher for 6-8 grades is putting on a play in the reading garden.

We need computers – good ones. Teachers want computers in their rooms for the FCAT Explorer. The school doesn't have the money for them right now. Sabrina mentioned checking the computer recycle center on Bee Ridge. Sometimes fully intact computers are turned into the center.

Kathy mentioned leasing tablets or computers, but Cecilia said when using grant money we can't lease.

Sarasota has the Texcellence Program which provides computers to students who qualify. One of our students just received their computer last week.

We need to figure out what to spend \$175K on by June 30th.

Referendum is coming up. SAC can tell people the importance of the referendum to try to get people to vote. As the Principal, Cecilia cannot tell people. Vote is March 25th.

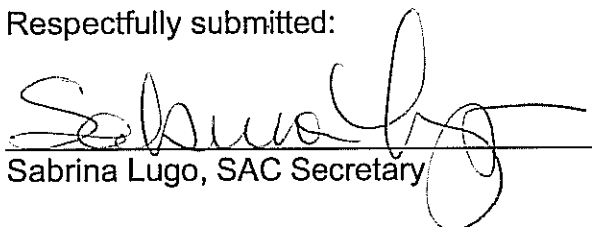
PTO Meeting is February 6th.

Sabrina left the meeting at 5:55 p.m. while discussion was still ongoing.

The next SAC meeting is February 20, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Sabrina Lugo, SAC Secretary

Date: 2/20/14