

SARASOTA ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

MINUTES OF THE October 24, 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 and Parent
Sabrina Lugo, SAC Secretary and Parent
Leyanit Barron-Moreno, Parent
Mike Henry, Parent
Kyle Turoff, Parent
Sally Maletesta, Community Member

Council Members Absent:

None

Guests Present:

None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m.

REPORTS:

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary was not present at the September meeting therefore, no minutes were prepared for review by the committee.

Discussion:

The SIP was presented at the PTO Meeting in October. An SIP is required every year and is based on scores from student testing. Our SIP has 6 goals based on the data we had. The SIP consists of 2 math goals, 2 reading goals, 1 goal for attendance and 1 goal for performing arts. The purpose of the SAC is to drive areas of improvement.

Cecilia presented a working accountability report to the State which shows SAA has reading gains of 74 points and math gains of 61 points. 82% of students in the lowest quartile showed improvement in reading. 51% of students in the lowest quartile showed improvement in math.

The biggest area of concern for scores is math. Traditional schools are pushing reading because of the testing. Part of the math problem is fluency; vocabulary. Jeff stated that one problem when the math curriculum was written is it was assumed that kids know the basic facts.

SAA offers 5 intensive math classes for grades 4-8 for filling in the gaps. Success Maker was ordered and paid for but we are waiting for the download. Success Maker software can be downloaded from home and gives students tests on basic math facts.

SAA has another \$175K grant coming to us. We will purchase 80 more computers for the school.

Schools will still receive a grade with the new testing. There is a Value Added Module score for teachers as well. Teachers are evaluated; 60% of the score based on the results of Cecilia's evaluation of them and the other 40% is based on student scores. Our teachers were either effective or highly effective.

The kids at the top end also need to improve and stay on top. SAA should provide an incentive for parents to buy in and see academics as important. Mike mentioned that many times motivation comes from money and suggested trying to convince parents that their kids can get scholarships for academic success.

We need to work on absenteeism. Parents must send in a written excuse within 3 days of their students' absence. There are some parents who are just not bringing their kids to school on a consistent basis. A possible incentive would be to offer a Parent's Night Out for students who have perfect attendance.

The ice cream social has resulted in a slight increase in student success, however the kids don't connect the reward with behavior.

An attendance chart for each classroom was suggested as a means for the students to keep track of their own attendance and as a visual prop to reach their goal.

Kyle mentioned incentivizing all categories as a whole: behavior, attendance, grades, etc... Each month has a pizza party for perfect attendance.

K-3 has Kickboard software used internally to track grades, attendance and behavior.

SAA needs to get feedback from parents. Kyle suggested sending a survey.

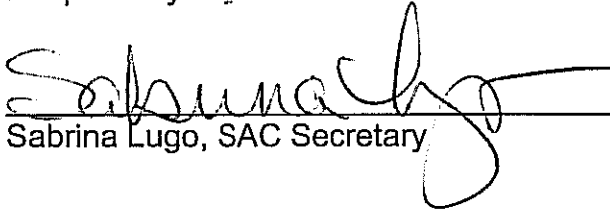
Homework club is working for the students. If they turn in all their homework, they get an extra recess.

November 11th is Literacy Night. SAA will provide dinner and tips to parents for helping their kids become successful readers.

The next SAC meeting is November 12th. The December 10th SAC meeting is now rescheduled to December 3rd.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Sabrina Lugo, SAC Secretary

Date: 11/12/14