

Sidney Huntington School Parent Advisory Committee (SHS PAC)

September 11, 2017

Location: Charles Evens Community Library

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to order:** President Jenny Bryant called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm. Also in attendance were PAC members Luis Echenique, Tamara Huntington, Secretary Ayla Kalke, SHS principal Ken Essex, Assistant Principal Jason Harris, GILA Teacher Kevin Schwoch. Not present members were Shirly Cleaver, Mark Huntington, Debbie Koontz.

2. **Approval of agenda:** Moved by Tammy seconded by Luis. The motion passed unanimously and the agenda was approved.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from last meeting are postponed to be approved at the next PAC meeting October 9, 2017 5:30pm.

Reports:

- 1) Ken's Principal Report was submitted in writing.
- 2) New Staffing:
 - a. Rachel Weid teaching language arts, social studies and technology to the 4-7th
 - b. Zac Pomrening working as Special Ed. aid
 - c. Andrew Ledford primary classroom aid.
- 3) Instruction:
 - a. Testing with 9th grade
 - b. Instructional growth tools
 - ❖ Further Interest, request samples from Ken
 - ❖ Not evaluative
 - ❖ Provide points of focus for their work
- 4) Performance Evaluations for Alaska's Schools (PEAK) assessment
 - Individual results sent to parents grades 3rd -10th
 - Support from the state was sent to parents to help guide them to understanding of student's report. If confusion still exist parents are encouraged to see Principal Ken Essex for more in-depth understanding of test.
 - Important to not compare PEAK test to any other testing in the past.
 - Cut score, below you are not proficient above you are proficient
 - Potential to change due to adjustment in data.
 - First year data
 - School summary Report in SHS PAC packet/handout at meeting(9/11)

(Tardy Arrival Shirley Cleaver 5:50pm : Understandably Excused due to the unclear meeting time.)

- Our Small sample size has some issues not conclusive enough.
 - Strictly for informational value
 - How can we do better
- 5) The current 8th grade schedule
- Gives students with higher skill levels ability to move up.
- 6) Ken's next year Ideas
- Physical Education, have Keliah and Ruth in the mornings for Elementary.
 - Look at 7th grade math; look at who can instruct it, the best candidate.
 - Give our kids that operate at a higher level what they need.
 - Necessary to look at the numbers for the coming year
- 7) After school activities
- Homework Room
 - Academic Pentathlon
- a) Subject Is Africa
- b) Tammy is running the Academic Pentathlon(middle school level) due to reoccurring desire to have academic Decathlon(high school level), why don't we start younger? The school paid for the curriculum and 10 online testing subscriptions. We might be the only academic Pentathlon team in the state. Practice for 6th grade is Tuesday 3-4 after school six students attend.
- c) Curriculum matches well with class work
- d) Incentive support ideas are
- laser tag
 - Potential travel
- e) Dawn is willing to work with 7th-8th grade during the academic support hour.
- f) Support is needed from others to strengthen the program.
- Geography Club
 - Working toward providing Science Fair opportunities for students
- 8) Resource Management
- Fixed back deck
 - Changed out hand washing stations
 - Painted the front door and railings
 - Will upgrade the Fire alarm panel system

PAC Elementary and Jr. High Staffing, class size, and combined classes policy change

- 1) Sent several times to the policy committee and was sent back
- 2) Was rejected because of incompatibility with board policy
- 3) PAC board agrees to adjust conflicting sentence and continue to try to pass this proposal.

- 4) Subcommittee formed (Jenny Bryant and Ayla Kalke): continue to rewrite, and meet with policy board members Tim Bodony, and Jim Merriner.

Community Comments

- **Luis Echenique** from Loudon wanted to highlight the work they did with the SHS school. Facilitated a Field trip to BLM for the Elementary 1st-8th grade. Three different tours were made to the BLM. He would like to Thank the Teachers and Jason Harris for their cooperation and help with transportation. Potential for next year, have BLM come and present for GILA and SHS students. Outreach opportunity. Loudon was able to get rid of 4 years of E-waste from the school. Palletized a full connex(15 pallets) school provided a few student helpers. This was Paid for through Loudon from federal funding from EPA.
- **Luis Echenique** wants to know why entry road to GILA is so bad, Principal Ken Essex directed this inquiry to the CITY.
- **Tammy Huntington** comment last week in September is mental health awareness. September 28, walk for life day.
- **Shirley Cleaver**
 - a. Requesting the Elementary doors are open in the morning for a limited time (suggested time 8am-9am) to relieve the congestion that occurs at the main entry in the morning.
 - b. SHS Credit card payments: Please make this available to local SHS parents. Local parents are not able to pay with credit cards like GILA parents. There are options available that other school districts use to have parents pay school bills via credit card, zangle(used in the Anchorage school district)
Jason Harris commented that the current reason SHS school does not take credit card payments from parents is due to the fee.
 - c. Ice Cream Social this introduces kids to a new school. Good way to start a school year.
 - d. Jamboree is October 6th and 7th
 - e. Suggested That the PAC holds a work session to set goals and annual outlook. Give the PAC a more concrete direction.
 - f. PAC holds fundraisers to support teachers

PAC comments: Communication can be better, Students entry in to High School is

Old Business

- a. Strategic plan comments due by 9/29/17.
- b. PAC decide to leave it to individual input form parents.
- c. Remind others to put in comments before the 29th

New Business

- 1) **State testing results PEAKS** (was discussed in Ken's report)

- Ken will share more information on testing in next report if new data comes to light.
- 2) Grade Creep**
- High proportions of graduates taking remedial classes in college.
 - Moved to work session and next meeting
- 3) Halloween Carnival**
- Potential date is suggested October 28th 2-4pm (ultimately up to the teachers)
 - Potential use of GILA and SHS students for booth helpers
 - GILA student attend the carnival
 - Prizes need to be ordered for the carnival.
 - Charlie Brown Halloween special on the high school Library from 4-6pm?
 - Proceeds go to organizations within the school that the booth runners choose to support.
- 4) How are the Elementary and Jr. High schedule changes going?**
- Working well
 - Parents would like more teacher updates, potential weekly newsletters.
 - Visiting the coffee shop
- 5) **Academic Pentathlon** (Information in Principals report)
- 6) Up coming municipal elections and future governance discussion
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- 7) Parent/Community/School Board relations**
- This topic is moved to the next PAC meeting
- 8) SHS Graduation:** Second ceremony on Friday for SHS graduating families travel. An Idea was brought forth by Jenny Bryant to have a second ceremony for local SHS students, to help facilitate close family travel along the river. Principal Ken Essex did not see any conflict with this idea.
- 9) Adjournment:** Jenny moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Shirley Second. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Coming meeting times.

- **Work Session Planned for Saturday, October 14th 10:00 am To go over the visions and annual goals of the PAC.**
- **Next PAC meeting Monday October 9th at 5:30pm.**