

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting:

12/5/16

Present: Mark Huntington, Nick Schumacher, Jaclyn Lumba, Deborah Koontz, Ayla Kalke, Tim Bodony, Shirley Cleaver, Ken Essex, Jenny Bryant, Jason Harris, Sandy Scotton, Tamara Huntington, Katrina Kruger.

1. Meeting called to order by Jenny Bryant at 6:07 PM
2. Shirley moves to approve the agenda. Ayla seconds. Tim requests an addition to New Business – report on policy committee. Ken recommends this go under item 4, changing the title from Principal’s Report to Reports. Approved by unanimous vote.
3. Shirley moves to approve the minutes. Mark seconds. Approved by unanimous vote.
4. Reports:
 - a. Principal – Printed copy provided. Ken notes that the superintendent turned down his request to hire an elementary teacher to fill the open position. The number of total F grades this semester went from >100 to 34. Elementary exploration time includes technology but we may have the opportunity to add culinary arts. We are serving meals in the big gym again.
Shirley requests that the principal’s report be email out to members before the meeting.
 - b. Policy Committee – Tim has been on this committee for 3 years now. Wellness committee formed per policy and made several changes. Policy currently states that our campuses are closed, but this is clearly not enforced. Board will have an opportunity to discuss – on the agenda for next school board meeting. Policy committee did not assert a recommendation. Tim requests comments for the committee to consider and open discussion occurs about our history and the pros and cons of open campus. Several members suggest a single page parent permission slip and/or sign out sheet. We agree that written policy should reflect current practice with some attention to liability concerns.
5. Community Comments:
 - a. Tamara and Ayla submit an article by Wayne Jennings entitled “How to Organize Successful Parents Advisory Committees”.
 - b. Sandy notes that preschool parents would like to extend the preschool day. Tamara notes that the Early Head Start may be interested in partnering with the school district. Shirley requests that Sandy email a summary of the conversation thus far.
 - c. The next meeting date may have to be modified, as many people will be traveling the first week in January.
6. Old business: None
7. New Business:
 - a. Bylaw review – Ayla notes that the Alaska State Statutes are available on line. Tim notes that the policy references are available on the school website. Tamara, Shirley and Ayla suggest forming a subcommittee to review and propose a draft of bylaws for review at the next meeting. Shirley so moves. Tim seconds. Approved by unanimous vote. This will be presented in Old Business next meeting.

- b. Powers/duties/role of the PAC – the above committee on Bylaw review will also examine the powers/duties/role.
- c. Solicit representatives to Budget Committee and Calendar Committee – Sandy notes that the Calendar Committee was not officially a school board committee. Shirley is willing to participate in a Calendar Committee if the board forms one. Sandy has been involved in the Budget Committee in the past, but is unavailable at this time. Jackie is willing to participate in the Budget Committee.
- d. Elementary Staffing – the position for an additional elementary teacher exists, but the superintendent has declined to post and fill this position. Concerns are expressed that if the PAC makes a resolution, this does not have any impact on the decision. Jenny requests information on how to lodge a formal complaint about information processing. Shirley moves that the SHS PAC adopts resolution SHS PAC 2016.1, as stated below. Mark seconds. Approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 16-01

A resolution of the Sidney C. Huntington School Parent Advisory Committee:

WHEREAS funding exists in the Galena City School District 2016-2017 budget for an elementary teacher position that is not currently filled; and

WHEREAS student-teacher ratios in the SHS elementary school have risen over the past five years; and

WHEREAS there is currently relative overcrowding in the grade 2-4 classroom; and

WHEREAS an additional elementary teacher could provide improved attention to individual student learning needs in an effort to reverse a trend of decreasing test scores, particularly in math;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Sidney C Huntington School Parent Advisory Committee recommends that the GCSD Board of Education direct the superintendent to post a primary elementary teacher position for the second half of the 2016-2017 school year, and retain this position in future budget cycles.

- e. Student PAC member – of note, we do not currently have a student council, but a renewed attempt is underway. Our bylaws currently state that we will have a student member. Ken recommends that the PAC Chairwoman submit a letter to him and he will

send it to the SHS students, requesting that any interested students submit a letter of interest before the next PAC meeting.

- f. Volunteer process – Ayla has submitted a draft volunteer application or declaration of interest. She recommends forming a subcommittee to review current board policy and develop guidelines for volunteers. Sandy recommends that this subcommittee may be most effective if they are focused in ongoing, one-on-one follow-up. Jenny recommends that we gather volunteer opportunities to draw in people for those specific tasks/dates. We have a Wisdom Keepers list, developed by the PAC 3-5 years ago and this is available in the Art Curriculum. Shirley advocates for a selection process to ensure that volunteers are safe and appropriate. Ayla and Shirley volunteer for this committee. Tim moves to form this subcommittee. Mark seconds. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - g. Phlight Club – Shirley attended a training in Anchorage with eight GSCD employees. Jan 20-21 will be our next Phlight club. Parents are encouraged to volunteer during the program. This program has been very successful in neighboring districts such as YKSD. Jared Carlson is the regional leader for our school district. Junior High Student involvement encouraged on Thursday night.
8. PAC Comments:
- a. Shirley Cleaver: I have two kids in the Christmas play. She requests that PAC members bring refreshments, possibly a picture booth, to start the holiday break with a celebratory air. She thanks everyone for attending and the staff for going above and beyond for our students.
 - b. Tim Bodony reminds us that we are an advisory committee and have the power specifically to advise and not make policy.
 - c. Ayla Kalke
 - d. Mark Huntington is happy to participate and see progress.
 - e. Jenny Bryant thanks everyone for coming.
9. Adjourn: Shirley move to adjourn the meeting. Mark seconds. Approved by unanimous vote.
10. Next meeting Monday, Jan 9th at 6 PM.