

Sidney C. Huntington School Parent Advisory Committee
February 6, 2017
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** PAC President Jenny Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. PAC members in attendance were Bryant, Mark Huntington, Ayla Kalke, Tim Bodony, and student member Tirzah Bryant. Also in attendance were SHS Principal Ken Essex, SHS Athletic / Activities Director Jason Harris, Amy Carlson, Jared Carlson, Debbie Koontz, Amanda Aloysius, Jennifer Nunley, Sandy Scotton, and Katrina Kruger.
2. **Agenda:** Tim moved to amend the agenda to add "Partnership with TCC Head Start" under New Business. Ayla seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the agenda was approved as amended.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Mark moved to approve the minutes from the PAC meetings on December 5, 2016 and January 16, 2017. Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.
4. **Reports:**

Tim Bodony provided an update on recent business of the board policy committee. New regulations stemming from recently passed legislation require that volunteers with more than 4 hours of time with kids per week need to take mandatory child abuse and neglect training. Also, there are some new suicide prevention policy suggestions from the Alaska Association of School Boards, based on BP 5141.52, that suggests suicide prevention training for staff, students and families. AASB suggests that it be mandatory, but it is not required per se in law.

Ken Essex principal report (as written)

Tirzah Bryant student report: Students are not taking Achieve 3000 seriously due to overuse. It is over-prescribed by teachers in her view. It used to be assigned about once per month in one subject, and now it is in all classes once per month. Ken explained that the purpose of Achieve 3000 is to improve nonfiction reading, and as a data collection tool to assess student reading levels. Tirzah also suggested that science fair return as a school-sponsored event, but not a mandatory part of curriculum. Ken replied that it should be possible to revive science fair on a limited basis, if interested students come forward. However possible funding for travel to regional or state science fair competitions is not certain at this time.

Jackie Lumba, arrived at 6:50 with report from budget committee. She submitted a request for funding for a full time preschool teacher. There is a proposal to increase IDEA student allotments to keep pace with other

homeschool programs. One more meeting is planned, and then recommendations go to the school board.

5. **Community Comments:** none

6. **Old Business**

A. Bylaws. Work session occurred on Jan 31. Among the proposed changes emerging from the work session was a new mission statement specifically for the PAC, instead of just adopting the same mission statement/vision statement as the GCSD as a whole. Membership has also been increased to a max of 10 members: 5 parents/guardians, 2 staff members, 2 students, and one non-parent community member. Election of officers is proposed to move from fall to spring, so that new officers can be ready and lined up in time to attend teacher in-service at beginning of following school year.

B. Volunteers. Ayla presented. The goal is to develop a larger pool of volunteers who can contribute in the school, with special attention to the arts, tutoring. A volunteer interest survey is ready to go out. Eventual training for reoccurring volunteers. Ken explained that there will be a vetting process for regular volunteers who expect to have contact with students in classroom, and a distinction between types of volunteers. It will also streamline the volunteer assignment process so that the Superintendent does not have to approve every volunteer staffing arrangement. This has Preliminary support from Superintendent.

C. Parked items: Based on earlier comments from Tirzah, Achieve 3000 is a topic to be recorded here. The "parking lot" is a repository for future agenda items. Another topic proposed is a Facebook page for SHS.

7. **New Business:** Proposal of a TCC partnership with GCSD to offer a full day head start program(in addition to the Early Head Start program that is happening now). TCC wants GCSD to provide space, and access to meals. Everything else is negotiable from there, according to Mr. Essex. TCC has money for staff and food. GCSD at this point is not committing to any pre-school services beyond what is currently offered (half day). As site administrator, Ken says supervision might be problematic, as the SHS principal does not have authority over TCC employees. And the curriculum used by TCC may not, and likely would not, match with GCSD preschool curriculum.

Comments:

-Jackie: more time with Jared would be ideal.

-Sandy: a cohort of kids are now coming out of Early Head Start that are accustomed to a longer day (7 hours, including nap and meals) of

instruction and organized activities. Going to a 2.5 hour preschool for 3 year olds would be a step backwards in the kids' routine.

-Amanda Aloysius: Head Start teachers for 3 thru 5 year olds must have a bachelors degree according to Head Start policy.

-Amy Carlson: longer day, at SHS, sponsored by GCSD would be best.

-Jenny Bryant added that based on conversations with other parents, there is a consensus that parents of preschool age children want a longer day, more skewed to the morning rather than afternoon.

Ken reminded everyone that the GCSD receives no state funding for preschool, and that current program is funded out of the district's general fund. That is the main reason why the administration is not keen on spending more on preschool. The key will be to see if TCC can supplement what is currently happening to expand to a longer day in a fashion that is agreeable to both TCC and GCSD.

Jenny suggested to place this issue on the PAC agenda again next month.

Ken will be bringing a variety of questions to Racquel at TCC and will report back.

8. **PAC Comments:** Shirley attended two meetings of the calendar committee since the last PAC meeting. Current calendar proposals call for the same length of Christmas break as had been in place for the last several years. August 28th is proposed as a start date and May 25th for graduation.
9. **Adjournment:** Tim moved to adjourn the meeting. Ayla seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.