**Eastside High School Advisory Council**

**February 16th, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

**In attendance:**

**Parents:** Zhihui Fang, Praveen Pathak, Quinten Eyman

**EHS:** Shane Andrew, Coral Antony, Maria Zelaya, Adele Turnage, Dianna Payne, Saundra Scrivener, Josephine Brown, Leroy Williams, Adele Turnage

**Student:** Amber Gillette

**Community Members:**

The SAC members in attendance approved the minutes from November 9th, 2016.

Ms. Antony motioned to approve the meeting’s agenda and was seconded by Mrs. Payne. The agenda was voted to be approved.

**Approval of the Ninth Grade Block Schedule:**

The school needed SAC permission to continue using the ninth grade block scheduling. The faculty voted in favor of this format of scheduling 42-16. The block scheduling allows freshmen to gain eight credits in their first year of high school, which allows them more credits in following years if they are needed. It also helps to limit disciplinary referrals by limiting time in the hallway between classes.

Each teacher teaches three blocks a day with one planning period, and three additional elective teachers teach two classes per day. This system has been used since 2009.

The effectiveness of this scheduling will be evaluated using the number of credits earned, more specifically the number of Algebra I credits.

This type of scheduling could have a positive impact on other schools if they chose to implement a similar system. If not, it should have no impact on other schools and the district.

Mrs. Payne asked if there was any specific reasoning for why 16 teachers voted “no” to the block scheduling. However, because these results are anonymous, there is no data explaining why these teachers voted the way they did.

Mr. Fang suggested integrating two subjects into one class to create an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Mr. Andrew replied that via the Florida Standards multiple pedagogical approaches are utilized when presenting the subject matter in class which includes interdisciplinary approaches. Some teachers collaborate on interdisciplinary approaches horizontally on grade level or programmatic teams.

Mr. Fang also suggested that 2 teachers work together to teach one class from the approach of different disciplines. Teachers must have a minimum number of instructional contact hours with students (240 for a block period) annually. This approach may prohibit them from reaching those hours. Too, the annual staffing allocation, FSA, EOC, AP, CTE, and IB assessments, and data collection tied to teachers limit or prohibit co-teaching opportunities.

Ms. Scrivener moved to approve the motion, and Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. All members voted for block scheduling and the motion carried unanimously in favor of the 9th grade block schedule for the 2017-18 school year.

**SAC Budget:**

At the November 9th meeting, the SAC did not have all of the necessary information concerning the budget.

At this meeting, the information was available. The expenditures at the last meeting totaled $21,678.43. The actual roll forward on 6/30/16 was $10,205.44. The actual final allocation for 2016-17 is $158,958.00. The actual expenditures to date are $97,370.12. The projected payroll for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year is $73,675.81. The projected balance on 6/30/17 is $6,555.60.

There was an increase in the roll forward because the SAC did not spend all of the money requested by 6/30/16. The lottery funds paid for the library furniture. The SAC ADS funds and school funds come from AP and IB generated funding sources.

The administrative team is currently exploring options to shift and/or reduce expenditures in an effort to increase available funding.

Mrs. Payne asked if we have access to this money, since it is no longer frozen. Mr. Andrew affirmed this.

Mrs. Payne asked if the expenditures consist of salaries, which was affirmed. The payroll budget pays for approximately 3.5 to 4 instructional/student services positions. The majority of these employees are not AP or IB instructors.

Mrs. Payne also asked how much funding would be needed for teachers/positions due to the shortfall in funded positions to meet the needs of our school. Mr. Andrew explained that we will not know our exact needs and costs until staffing allocations are distributed for the 2017-18 school year. We will only be able to provide a limited amount of support in addition to what the district allocates us for staffing, so some cuts will need to be made. Advance Placement and IB funds depend on the number of AP and IB tests taken and passed by students. The staffing allocations fluctuate with student enrollment numbers. Eastside HS has unique needs that warrant the need for additional positions.

Mrs. Brown mentioned how waiting until the district sees Eastside’s needs may negatively impact the students. The district uses enrollment figures during the first week or so of school to determine if schools are over allocated or under allocated. At the moment, Eastside has a student body of 1330 students. Our enrollment at the beginning of the school year was approximately 1400 students.

Additionally, the IB program has seen a recent decline in enrollment. This could be due to more competition with the Cambridge program and students wanting to remain closer to home.

It was noted that the district often determines allocations by numbers and does not necessarily take into consideration special needs.

Mr. Pathak asked if there is an optimal projected balance for June 30, 2017 and wanted to know if our expenses this year were too high or low. Mr. Andrew replied that the roll forward amount was a fair amount based on the amount expended in salaries and benefits for positions to support students. The roll forward amount fluctuates annually. Mr. Fang inquired if we should spend the money this year or wait until next year, and Mr. Andrew replied that it is always good to have money carry into next year. Mrs. Payne explained that the SAC has always had at least $5,000 carry over. We will know if our current number is accurate by the end of June.

Mr. Eyman asked if there are any other expenditures that need to be taken into consideration. It was noted that the with the closing of the fiscal year on June 30, 2017 and the beginning of a new fiscal year on July 1, 2017 the district transition processes typically take approximately a month to work through over the summer, but preliminary projections and requests for support for the 2017-18 school year will be developed and proposed at the final meeting.

Mr. Pathak wanted to know if we are under spending if we have $8,000 extra in the budget. Mr. Andrew explained that any money in the budget will roll forward and is not an indicator of under spending. Mr. Andrew replied that the budget for next year depends on the amount of money received from Advanced Placement revenue and the amount approved to expend on 2017-18 salaries coupled with the estimated allocation from the district. We will get a fairly solid estimation of our allocation later this spring.

Mr. Fang asked if one program at Eastside had a greater amount of need than the other. Mr. Andrew replied that all programs have somewhat similar needs and that there are multiple services and positions that support all programs in different ways. It was noted that community investment, private sponsorships, alumni support, parental support, fundraising, the one-mill, and a possible half-cent tax could help generate more funding for the school.

**Eastside Accreditation:**

The Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recommended Eastside for accreditation on February 7, 2017.

Eastside was asked to focus on continual learning improvement processes and progress monitoring. The Council also noticed that the technology and digital learning environment needs to be improved. They were impressed with the culture of students and the climate on campus.

The numbers given to Eastside by this council were said to be good as they are higher than many schools. However, when compared to the averages Eastside is on the lower 50th percentile.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Andrew had no new announcements at this time.

Mrs. Zelaya brought up her being able to work with a teacher in Colombia who will come to Eastside to see the school and meet her students in March. Mrs. Zara-Smith was in Washington D.C. at the time for the same program Mrs. Zelaya was involved in, and will be going to Colombia in the summer.

Mr. Pathak asked if there had been news on which universities seniors were being accepted to attend. Mrs. Turnage replied that there is not yet any clear information yet, as the seniors themselves must inform their guidance counselors on any news received. However, it was noted that this year the University of Florida had its lowest acceptance rate ever.

The next meeting being held on April 6, 2017. The motion to adjourn was put forth, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.