

EHS-SAC November 6, 2014

School Advisory Council, Eastside High School

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The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chair Elizabeth Washington.

In attendance were:

EHS: Principal Jeff Charbonnet. Teachers Coral Antony, Sylvia Walker, Justin Dennison, Maria Zelaya, and Carol Faas. Career Service: Saundra Scrivener.

Parents: Mike Griffis, Eileen Sayeski, Elizabeth Washington,.

Community Members: Tarsha Rentz; Jeff Smith, Chen Liu.

Student: Chase Werther.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Dr. Washington and seconded by Eileen Sayeski.

Election of Officers: Elections were approved: Chair: Elizabeth Washington; Vice-Chair, Eileen Sayeski; Secretary Carol Faas.

Elizabeth Washington will continue to be the EHS representative to the District School Advisory Council.

Meeting Dates and Times: Meetings will continue to be held on Thursdays at 5 pm: January 22, 2015, February 19, 2015, and April 16, 2015.

SAC Budget. The budget has been reduced because of the new ruling about incentive money from AP and IB testing. One class/one test/ one payment. For this year, seniors who wish to take both an AP and IB test for one class will have the \$93 dollar fee paid by the school, Otherwise, if a student wants to take both an AP and IB test for an IB course, each student will be responsible for the fee for the second test.

SAC funding for teacher positions (0.6 of a music teacher; 0.6 of a dean and 1.0 for a computer class) was explained as continuing to be necessary, especially since all “brick and mortar” school lost 1/24 of state funding due to the mandate of one online class per student (despite the reality that these online classes are being provided in school computer labs and supervised by a school employee). In order have a richer curriculum, the SAC will continue to fund these positions.

School Grading and Accountability System. Mr. Charbonnet presented a Power Point explaining the changes in the school grading system. This is in effect for the current school year. The school grade for last year (under the old system) has not been released yet.

Career and Technical Education: Computer Programming Classes. Teacher Justin Dennison reported on the new Industry Certifications that students in his JAVA programming class (23 students) and his two AP Computer Science classes (70 students) are eligible to earn, as well as the business software classes taught by Mrs. Carrie Davis (150 students). This fits in with the School Improvement Plan and state mandates to graduate job-ready students.

There was some discussion about how electronic textbooks are not yet workable for schools, due to the issues around licensing, downloading to individual devices, and affordability. For now, paper textbooks are continuing to be used.

Science Facility Update: A document outlining the “Eastside High school Science Laboratory Campaign” was distributed and discussed. Everyone is urged to frequently contact the school board and superintendent urging that EHS be given a priority for a new science building. This campaign was begun last year and public awareness must be maintained.

SAC minigrants. The SAC has budgeted approximately \$10,000 for teacher minigrants. Teachers are urged to put their proposals on the Foundation for School Success “Find it and fund it” page and **also to submit a paper copy to the SAC.** “Find it and fun it” has some quirks and not all proposals are posted in a timely manner. EHS teachers will be sent an email telling them to submit their proposal before the winter break beginning December 19. Proposals will be reviewed at the January 22, 2015 SAC meeting. The goal is to fund as many proposals as possible mid-year so that teachers can get what they need. More proposals will be considered at a spring SAC meeting to disburse any remaining funds.

Discussion item: Teachers Updating their Gradebooks. Difficulties with the IC portal and an upgrade in the grading program have caused difficulties for teachers in posting grades in a timely manner. This grading issue is now a discussion point in the ongoing contract negotiations with the ACEA. Many parents of course want up-to-the-minute information on every child’s every quiz and paper, and most teachers are inundated with work, and a balance must be found.

Congratulations to: The Marching Band (all Superiors at state); the girls Swim Team (Regional Champions); Alachua County Youth Volunteer Megan Mathew; and Sunshine State Scholar Jessica Lee (top STEM student in the district); and the NASA Student Astronaut Challenge club, for being first in the district and headed to State in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.