

Eastside High School Advisory Council

November 14, 2013

Sac President Elizabeth Washington called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

In attendance were:

EHS: Principal Jeff Charbonnet; Assistant Principal Adele Turnage; teachers Coral Antony, Bobbie Benson, Virginia Christensen, Carol Faas, Byers Hickmon, Jacque Polke

Parents: Sue Berg, Rosemary Bakker, Mike Griffis, Eileen Sayeski, Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, David Worthy, Sangennetta Walden, Reggie Fajack, Bridget DeSue, Elizabeth Washington

Student: Chase Werther

Community Member: Ray Thomas

Executive Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Planning and Construction: Mr. Shane Andrew

The agenda was approved on a motion by Ray Thomas and seconded by Jeff Charbonnet

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Jeff Charbonnet and seconded by Coral Antony.

Mr. Charbonnet shared copies of the Alachua County Public schools 2013-14 Budget Update newsletter.

The Science Facilities Subcommittee headed by Ray Thomas shared information about the need for upgrading the EHS science labs and classrooms. This is a follow up to the information shared at the last SAC meeting. This discussion was followed by a question and answer session with Mr. Andrew about the procedure to get EHS moved up on the capital outlay list. He was aware of and supportive of the needs at EHS, having attended Buchholz High which has a similar science classroom layout. Mr. Andrew discussed the pros and cons of either updating the existing forty-plus years old classrooms or getting a new science building, as Santa Fe High School built. Estimates to upgrade the existing facility might be about \$800,000, but would mean that EHS would then fall to the bottom of the priority list. A new facility might cost \$5 million, but could be funded through various methods. This might be COPS—Certificate of Participation (a type of bond), or perhaps PECO—Public Education Capital Outlay—state funds which in recent years have almost exclusively been funneled to charter school facility renovations, or a possible sales tax levy.

Mr. Andrew suggested that EHS organize a campaign to inform school board members, county commissioners, and other influential community personages of the many wonderful things going on at EHS and how a new science building would fit in with Gainesville's burgeoning science, research and technology enterprises.

The search for a new county superintendent of schools will probably last until next summer and no decision on a building will be made before then, even if money were available so this gives EHS people time to build up awareness and support for a new building.

David Worthy suggested that we get a senior architecture student at UF to make a design, specs and model for the EHS science building so we have a great presentation for the school board. EHS teacher Sarah Reynierson just did a project with the cooperation of the UF Architecture School and found them to be very approachable. Any such project would have to be acted upon very soon as this year's junior architect students will be committing to senior projects in January.

EHS Public Relations Campaign

The Accreditation Committee last year suggested that EHS create a marketing campaign to broadcast its many successes—graduation rates, many volunteer hours, etc. Mr. Charbonnet has set up an EHS Twitter account to do this. Twitter was chosen because it is easier to manage the content than other social media accounts. Byers Hickmon has had good experiences publicizing his JROTC activities on You-Tube, which can be set up to not allow public comments. Elizabeth Washington will look into Instagram. Ms. Turnage also led a discussion of other venues for publicity such as local magazines, real estate offices, etc.

School Climate Surveys and Focus Groups

Surveys were taken by students the past two weeks. The district Director of Guidance, Bill Goodman, will be conducting focus groups with EHS students to discuss matters of concern raised in student surveys.

SAC Minigrants

The SAC voted to give minigrants to the following: Coral Antony, Benjamin Ellis, Carol Faas, David Jones, Crista Ladd, Jeff Parker, Sarah Reynierson, Saundra Scrivener, Margaret Scruby, Katherine Stryker, Amanda Shitama, and Sylvia Walker.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.