

School Advisory Council

Eastside High School

October 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

Attending were:

EHS: Jeff Charbonnet, Adele Turnage, Coral Antony, Carol Faas, Byers Hickmon, Jacqueline Polke, Maria Eugenia Zelaya,

Parent: Eileen Sayeski

Student: Hannah Hutchinson

Community Members: Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. Ray Thomas, Tarsha Rentz,

Approval of Agenda: Jeff Smith moved to approve the agenda; Coral Antony seconded.

Officers were elected:

President: Dr. Elizabeth Washington

Vice President: Eileen Sayeski

Secretary: Carol Faas

Meeting dates and times were established:

Thursday, November 7, 5 p.m.

Thursday, February 6, 5 p.m. (The School Climate Survey will be determined.)

Thursday, April 10, 5 p.m. (The results of the Climate Survey will be discussed.)

SAC Budget:

Coral Antony moved to approve the budget; Jeff Smith seconded the motion.

Discussion about the SAC allocations for salaries revealed that all salaries were for positions specified in the School Improvement Plan.

Dr. Smith suggested that, in the future, when there may be money available, that the SAC give awards to students for various achievements. He offered to pursue local sponsors for such awards. The SAC will revisit this idea in February.

Student Achievement Report:

A presentation originally developed by the Interim Superintendent of Schools Herschel Lyons that detailed the academic achievements of students throughout Alachua County and also specifically African-American students at the schools on the east side of Gainesville revealed that, although in general African American students are at the lower end of the achievement scale, Eastside High School has the highest-achieving African American students in the county. This data will guide EHS in allocating resources to improve student achievement.

To this end, more than 100 community mentors have been recruited to mentor EHS students.

Also, EHS administrators and Guidance Counselors recently spent an evening at the Forest Green housing complex, meeting with parents and printing out student records for families who were unable to attend the EHS Open House in September.

Science Facilities Subcommittee Report:

Jeff Charbonnet and Ray Thomas have been investigating improving the science labs and facilities in EHS. Dr. Thomas explained that the new standards for teaching science involve much more hands-on experimentation, with a floor plan that combines classroom space with lab space. This would meet the standards for the college level classes taught at high school. In addition, Dr. Thomas expressed the belief that the ability to provide an investigative approach to learning science would motivate the major program students.

Mr. Charbonnet and Dr. Thomas have visited the new biotechnology center at Santa Fe High School in Alachua.

Shane Andrew, the new Assistant Superintendent of Facilities for county schools will be invited to attend the November SAC meeting and review the science facilities here and discuss a plan for getting EHS onto the priority list for renovation. There is currently no money available for such improvement.

Presentation "Link Crew":

Mr. Charbonnet and Mrs. Turnage have attended a training session for "Link Crew" which is a nationwide program designed to provide freshmen students with junior and senior student mentors and a wide variety of activities. This engages freshmen and reduces the rate of behavior problems, failing grades, and dropping out of school. The administration would like to start a "Link Crew" program at EHS and plans to send some teachers for training in the next few months.

Principal's Updates:

After many years of student complaints about the restrooms, the restrooms in Building 5 are now being renovated. Mr. Charbonnet led a tour to admire the shiny new tiles.

Other follow-up to the Student School Climate surveys include forming some Focus Groups to address issues raised by students.

Other:

The SAC approved funding for Carol Faas to attend the Florida Association for Media in Education meeting to learn about the Common Core curriculum resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.