

Valley Ridge Academy School Advisory Council

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Acting Secretary: James Lee

1. Call to order at 3:32 pm
  - a. Quorum not met: short by 4
2. Review and Approval of January Minutes
  - a. Motion to approve tabled until the following meeting with quorum
3. School Board Update: Kelly Barrera
  - a. Open Enrollment update
    - i. Concern with how it will work
    - ii. Already received over 30 requests with 80% being out of district requests
  - b. New Principals announced last week for Elem. M and for SPMS
  - c. New "KK" school is on schedule
  - d. NHS construction is moving along well and expected to be completed over the summer
    - i. New Principal has been working with local community to ensure the safety of students moving onto and off of campus
4. Principal Update: Sandra McMandon
  - a. Legislative Days Update
    - i. FASA
    - ii. Ms. McMandon attended
    - iii. SJCS D had the largest representation there
    - iv. Met with various Reps.
      1. Focus on the new Recess Bill
        - a. How will this look and how will affect core content instruction
      2. How are Districts supplement schools for Nurses
        - a. SJCS D helps lead the way here to make sure that every school has a nurse.
        - b. Need for additional funding so districts do not need to take the funds from Operational Budgets
        - c. Has always been a priority under Dr. Joyner and now Mr. Forson
      3. Increase in students who need Mental Health Counseling
        - a. St. Aug. Youth Services in the south end of the county
      4. Speaking to the day to day issues that face schools and teachers that are not either well known or well published
    - v. Encourage you to reach out to our Reps to share experiences
      1. Question from Group: What about home health and students who are considered Hospital Homebound?
        - a. Yes, the district funds this.
  - b. VRA Update
    - i. This Friday (17<sup>th</sup>) is a teacher inservice day so no school for students
      1. Several trainings being offered to the teachers

- 2. Trainings in the morning and data chats in the afternoon
  - ii. PBIS is moving forward under the guidance of Dean Gifford and the PBIS Committee
  - iii. Testing is coming up and will last until the end of the year
    - 1. FSA Writes at the end of February
    - 2. If you would like to volunteer to proctor, please contact Ms. Allred
  - iv. Parent Question: There is a sign that says “No Golf Carts”, does that apply to teachers as well?
    - 1. Ms. McMandon has spoken with staff and works with them on an individual basis
- 5. School Improvement Plan Review: Ms. Southworth and Ms. McMandon
  - a. Quick review of the plan
    - i. Long term plan
    - ii. 3-5 Big Goals
    - iii. Tweaked and updates to the previous plan
    - iv. Can be found on the VRA SAC webpage
      - 1. Can also be found : <https://www.floridacims.org/districts>
    - v. Self-monitoring and based upon data
      - 1. Quantitative and qualitative
    - vi. Updated annually
    - vii. Data based upon the previous year
    - viii. Goals are clear cut and incorporate multiple action steps
    - ix. VRA has 3 big goals: Summarized as
      - 1. Balanced Literacy
      - 2. Increase student achievement in reading through high-yield instructional strategies
      - 3. MYP and writing across the curriculum will lead to increased student proficiency
    - x. Parent question: Are the class sizes in electives in the middle school part of the plan?
      - 1. Not specifically but it is an issue that the Admin. team is working to address.
        - a. VRA is limited in scheduling due to size, MYPIB, space, funding, etc.
        - b. Actively working to be creative with scheduling to provide relief with class size.
    - xi. How can SAC help?
      - 1. Encourage parents to participate in the survey
      - 2. SAC can approve funding needed to achieve goals
      - 3. Resource for information for all of our stakeholders
    - xii. Parent question: How much do the goals change year to year and are they based on last year’s data? They seem very curriculum focused and is that what the state wants?

1. They are 3 year goals and that is from guidance from the district and the state. They are based upon last year's data and then review to make sure the goals are still relevant and needed. SAC will help to guide the discussion on the focus and to see if the goals need to adapt or change. So while they are long term goals, they are reviewed annually.

## 6. Old Business

### a. SAC Survey

- i. Questions 1-14 are mandated from the district.
- ii. 17 total
- iii. 3 other sample questions were provided to review and for discussion
  1. 2 sample questions related to IB and 1 related to high school academies were read and sparked discussion on should they be included. The thought being that this feedback and guide the school in terms of communication, programs, etc.
  2. Parent question: are there questions on the survey about communication?
    - a. Yes there are.
  3. Will there be open field questions?
    - a. Yes there is an option for additional comments at the end.
  4. Make sure to add a comment that all feedback provided is confidential.
  5. The survey will be communicated in a variety of manners including newsletter, phone/email blast, website, marquee, etc.
- iv. Are the faculty survey results going to be shared with SAC?
  1. Yes, after the parent survey.
    - a. SAC member provide sample questions that could be included in the faculty survey and offered to provide assistance.

## 7. New Business

### a. SAC Funds Request: Brian Gifford

#### i. PBIS

1. Funds to be used for incentives and rewards for students as well as signs and posters throughout the school.
2. The desire is to roll out to parents in the community in a highly effective and engaging manner to increase buy-in and provide a consistent and clear message.
  - a. Targeting the month of March to present to parents
3. Framework on expectations and example lesson plans have been provided to teachers.
  - a. The first of 3 official trainings occurred on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
4. \$600 was raised through a school "Hat Day" fundraiser
5. \$500 was provided by PTO
6. Asking for \$1000 from SAC
7. First Middle School Donut day was held on 2/14
  - a. 1 donut per Hawk Hero card
  - b. 240 donuts were "sold out" in a matter of minutes

8. Elementary "Donut and Cutie (oranges) Day" will be held on 2/16
  9. Want to specially recognize and thank PTO for their support Live School (\$4800) which will roll out to teachers in the month of March
    - a. This will replace Hawk Hero Cards from the month of March until the end of the year.
    - b. More information will be forth coming.
  10. Question: How can we increase the use of common language with parents?
    - a. Communication will be key. Teachers will be asked to include the information in class newsletter. Parent nights, welcome back to school events, websites, etc.
  11. Question: Is this just a lot of rules? This isn't just calling students out for not meeting expectations is it?
    - a. No, it is a method of teaching consistent expectations and then rewarding those meeting those expectations.
  12. Over time, will it replace the individual teacher classroom behavior management?
    - a. No, it will work in conjunction with those as well as character counts.
    - b. PBIS is a positive framework to operate within.
  13. SAC has a little over 12 thousand in the budget.
  14. Vote is tabled until the next meeting where quorum is present.
8. New/Old Business
- a. Hubbard Beatty-Griffin House club at Nease is having a fundraiser on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the school.
  - b. Parent Comment: There been any communication about parking in the neighborhood and students are walking across the street. The police and neighborhood HOA are being much more diligent about monitoring and will be issuing citations.
  - c. Parent Comment: Is it up to the bus driver if they enforce the students wearing their seat belts on the bus?
  - d. Parent Comment: Do the middle school students have enough room on the bus and not making students sit 3 to a seat?
    - i. Their transportation department is having trainers going out with the drivers to ensure that expectations are being met. The drivers are undergoing on going training and monitoring.
    - ii. The district is purchasing and implementing new software that will be much more comprehensive and intuitive that will assist with all aspects of the bus transportation.
  - e. Parent Comment: The Character Counts Run was highly effective and fun. What is the process for starting a Middle School Cross Country team?
    - i. Contact the St. Johns County Middle School Athletic Association
9. Meeting Adjourned at: 5:00 pm