**Valley Ridge Academy School Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024 @ 4pm Location: Media Center**

**Quorum: NOT ESTABLISHED**

1. Call to Order: Samantha Calascione
2. Welcome, Introductions, Establishing a Quorum (District required) - not voting, 15 total in attendance.
3. Voting & Membership Presentation
   1. District Required PPT - PowerPoint shared to give the overview of the purpose SAC, breakdown of voting and non-voting members, responsibilities of SAC members, procedures of the SAC meeting, and review of the SAC website.
      1. Established by FL Sunshine Law – public meetings
      2. SAC website accessible via VRA Website
4. New Business
   1. Review of Bylaws – presented Hard copy of by-laws provided to all who were in attendance
   2. Review of Meeting Minutes from May. Reiterated that these meeting dates are will be posted on the SAC website (3rd Tuesday of each month)
   3. Review of funds request – program called You Fly Foundations – developed by UF.
5. Review of Finances – presented
   1. Balance $25,630.13
   2. School recognition funds $95,267.41
6. School Board Update: Ms. Kelly Barrera – present
   1. ½ Cent Sales Tax – importance to community and schools
      1. Teachers wear many hats – help to support our teachers.
   2. Referendum Oct 7 and 17, 6pm – Valley Ridge Academy supporting Nease High School
      1. Information on district website
      2. Request to have group come out to explain the referendum. Q & A and FAQs available
      3. Safety – single point entry, radios for staff, Centegix badges, camera refresh
         1. Reiterate the importance of children not spreading inappropriate information
      4. St. John’s County School District - A rated district since 2004 in comparison to Sarasota School District that has the millage
      5. Avoid staff and faculty cuts
      6. Last 9 years rollback rate millage 3.982%
      7. Growth of district and new schools and staff costs
      8. More districts going for the extra millage; compete with other districts
      9. ½ Cent Success
7. Principal Update: Ms. Fuller - present
   1. Enrollment – smaller numbers in elementary and larger numbers in middle school.
   2. 1/2 Cent Sales Tax -85% of millage to staff recruitment
      1. Two Votes, One Decision
   3. School of Excellence – class size changes, keep staff in lower grade levels, class size averaging.
   4. Fun Run Booster Run in October – need more input from parents.
   5. Technology update/refresh in good place to focus on other needs of classrooms.
      1. Teacher requests to be granted
8. District Library Objection Committee & School Media Advisory Committee: Ms. Barnett
9. District Library Committee recruitment
10. The Media Center Advisory – made up of teachers and parents: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and a community member.
11. Closing Thoughts, Comments, and/or Questions:
    1. Ms. Barrera: Parents with young students spread the word regarding Valley Ridge being a great educational environment
    2. Parent: Certain number of people to serve on the SAC committee
    3. Ms. Barrera: Some community members feel administration and district personnel should be cut to support finances
    4. Parent: Message informing the support of the ½ Cent Sales Tax has been unclear
    5. Ms. Barrera: Need the support of the community for ½ Cent Sales Tax
12. Adjournment – at 4:57 pm. Next meeting scheduled for Oct. 15, 2024
    1. Motion to adjourn 1st – Samantha Calascione and 2nd – Angela Fuller