

Valley Ridge Academy

SAC Meeting Minutes

11/8/16

Acting Secretary: James Lee

1. Call to Order: Holly Southworth
  - a. Meeting called to order at: 3:33 pm
  - b. Quorum met
  - c. Welcome of Beth Sweeny
  - d. SAC Balance update: \$12,774.00
    - i. No change since last meeting
2. October Minutes Review and Approval
  - a. Typo: Answer to 7 H – change from “me” to “met”
  - b. Motion to accept minutes passed at 3:36
3. SJCS D Governmental Relations Presentation: Beth Sweeny – School Funding Advocacy
  - a. 2017 Legislative Platform was distributed and read/reviewed by Ms. Sweeny
    - i. See attachment
      1. Funding
      2. Assessment and Instructional Materials
      3. Choice Programs
        - a. Question: What is the SJCS D definition of capacity?
          - i. This is still being developed and fine-tuned by the Board and District.
        - b. Question: What is the purpose of capacity if it is already being exceeded?
          - i. It depends on building and the inclusion of portables.
      4. School Safety
    - b. Presentation: Legislative Advocacy: What You Need to Know to Make Change Happen
      - i. Know your issue
        1. Detailed knowledge
        2. Have resources
        3. Develop a specific solution
          - a. Overview of the Education Funding Trends
            - i. 2010 – 2016
            - ii. Total funds have increased but percent of the budget dedicated to education as decreased
        - ii. Build an effective message
          1. Issue: Select a priority
          2. Focus: provide a recommendation
          3. Importance: Identify local examples
          4. Facts: Identify data and evidence

5. Ask: Provide the “ask”. This could be a specific amount of funding, a specific bill, or a specific amendment
  6. Know your audience: Predict how they may respond to what you are requesting
  7. Use this information to frame your solution in a manner that appeals to them
- iii. Build relationships
    1. Meet with and get to know your local legislators
      - a. Senator Travis Hutson
      - b. Representative Cyndi Stevenson
      - c. Representative Paul Renner
    2. Get to know legislators that can help you advance your agenda
    3. Be a resource
    4. Relationships you’ve built can help advance your agenda
    5. Follow your legislators on social media
  - iv. Resources
    1. All contact info and 2017 Legislative Platform can be found on Governmental Relations site on the District website
    2. Follow the Governmental Relations Dept. on Twitter
  - v. Questions
    1. How will Twitter be used?
      - a. Still working through the fine tuning.
    2. Can we get a copy of this presentation?
      - a. Yes, and a longer version is on the website.
4. School Board Update: Kelly Barrera
    - a. 2017-2018 Master Calendar has been posted on the District website
      - i. The district is working on the development of Master Calendar FAQ section to answer parent questions.
    - b. Legislative Agenda was discussed at the school board meeting.
    - c. Today is Superintendent selection day.
      - i. Thanks to Tiffany for representing VRA
      - ii. Tim Forson was offered the position and he accepted.
    - d. Durbin Creek Elementary had the highest scores in the district and some of the highest in the state.
    - e. Questions:
      - i. As a realtor, I am hearing from people that are moving into 20 mile about going to PVHS.
        1. PVHS is full and there is not space for portables on the site.
        2. Re-zoning discussions will begin shortly.
          - a. You are encouraged to come to out to those community discussions and make your voice heard.
      - ii. How is the over-crowding of NHS going to work?
        1. There is a new HS in the 5 year plan but it is currently unfunded.
        2. New high schools are roughly 70 million dollars.

3. There is currently a planned expansion at both NHS and CHS
  - iii. Where will the homes that are built on the other side of US 1 going to go?
    1. That has yet to be determined.
  - iv. What happens to portables when we do not need them?
    1. They are leased currently and are returned when no longer needed.
    2. The money would go back to the operations budget.
  - v. Any discussion as to the new school in Nocatee becoming strictly middle school and not a K-8?
    1. There is not. That school is designed and required to be a K-8.
  - vi. Is that school definitely going to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> story?
    1. Yes.
  - vii. Has the district looked into creating debt or a bond?
    1. Yes. We currently having a significant amount of debt. The issue revolves around legal limits related to bonding a % of the mills. With the mills being reduced, that affects the ability to borrow.
5. Principal Update: Sandra McMandon
- a. Fall Festival was a tremendous success. Thank you to the PTO for all of their hard work and our business sponsors for their support.
  - b. PTO Family Movie Night will occur on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. Most likely geared for K-5
  - c. These events are to build a sense of community, they are not fundraisers.
  - d. Veterans Day program will occur on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> will attend.
  - e. Class Size
    - i. FTE window has passed and we are provided some relief
    - ii. We can go over slightly without being out of compliance
      1. But this is only for newly enrolled students
      2. We cannot move students already enrolled into a class that is at the limit
  - f. DE Testing will begin
  - g. EOC's will begin tentatively on December 14<sup>th</sup>
    - i. The schedule will be published as soon as it is finalized
6. Old Business
- a. Member Update: Mr. Gifford added as an official voting member.
    - i. Motion made at 4:30
    - ii. Motion passed
  - b. Co-Chair Update: Mr. Gifford appointed as the Co-Chair.
7. New Business
- a. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> is the Gifted Parent Advisory meeting. Email Ms. Southworth for more information.
  - b. Question: With the growth of the school and the teachers who move to new grade levels or the profession, how do we as a school support them?
    - i. Teachers are assigned a grade level mentor, usually the team lead.

- ii. Team collaboration is strength at VRA and the team fully supports new members.
    - iii. The ILC works closely as a coach, support and resource.
    - iv. District support is provided such as Gifted, ESE, CAST Team services
    - v. Admin support from Principal and AP's or the Dean etc.
  - c. Question: The budget was provided. When do we decide what to spend that money on?
    - i. We need to make sure we are particular about what we spend it on. We need to make sure we discuss as a team and make sure it is aligned with our SAC and school goals. We are open to suggestions for anytime.
- 8. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to adjourn made at 4:38
  - b. Motion passed
  - c. Meeting adjourned at 4:38