

In Attendance: (12)

Administration: Principal, Richard Martinez; Assistant Principal, John Geisinger.

Teachers/Staff: Dan Bredbenner, Gifted Resources.

Parents: Chairperson, Ricki Guyant; Vice-Chair, Vanessa Olson; SACI Representative, Carrie Webb; Secretary, Reyna Cartagena; Lori Hancock; Darla Carenas; Terrie Lewis, Tim Neall; Kay Ziv.

Welcome: PAC Chairperson, Ricki Guyant, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, welcoming all in attendance and wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Review of Minutes: The minutes from the 11/14/16 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Open Forum: Mrs. Guyant called for Open Forum.

- A parent brought up communication and newsletter, indicating that weekly information can be provided via the newsletter. Mr. Martinez reported that he has been making decisions about email/autodialer notifications and has also trained Mr. Park. He asked that if any parent is not receiving the emails, to please check your junk mail or update your email address with the school.
- A parent brought up concern about the drop off lines in the morning; Mr. Martinez stated that, as the weather gets colder, more students are dropped off instead of waiting at the school bus. He also stated that the timing of stop lights near the school has also contributed to the delay in the morning. He indicated that amnesty is issued for tardies on such days, but recommended an earlier start to anticipate any of these issues.
- A parent raised the issue of projects being assigned over break. In this example, the student had to record instrument practice daily. A parent informed the group that, over the break, a teacher posted about work her students had to complete over the break; specifically a 6-page paper that was timed seemingly to avoid the homework policy explicitly. Another parent expressed concern about such expectations impacting holiday time with family and another underscored this by stating that such homework does not contribute to a complete life for the student. Another brought up the issue that, for students who fight the homework over the break, extensions are given which benefits those who did not complete the work. The goal is to benefit students across the board. Mr. Martinez apologized for this and reiterated how strongly he has emphasized the homework policy with his staff. He also reminded parents that, without details, he is unable to address those that continue these practices, as parents often fear retaliation. He also reminded parents that homework given during break is the problem; not homework given in advance of the break, which a parent confirmed was the case with the research paper that was assigned earlier in the year.
- Later a parent reported on the great results of the Breakfast with Santa event, the largest turnout to date with 250 volunteers. Good feedback was received that day.
- Another parent informed the group that Suicide Awareness Week is in May and inquired about at the FPHS walk that is usually held that month.
- Other service opportunities were discussed by parents, like students who want to eliminate land mines in other countries or those that have currently collecting items for flood victims, and

chapter-based honor societies, all of which could go into the newsletter and continue to build a positive school culture.

SACI Report:

- Ms. Olson updated members on SACI discussions, to include grading, timely grades, standards, etc. with the goal being mastery of subjects v. testing. She indicated that SACI members had theoretical discussions with different ways of thinking about grading. She also reported that, this Thursday, parents will attend a Best Practices conferences about what works and what doesn't at Ashland Elementary. Ideas are encouraged.
- As a follow up, a parent shared how her student's teacher called her at home to explain the grading process and was open to suggestions. The parent appreciated that.

Principal's Report: Mr. Martinez provided an update on the strategic plan with handout distributed. He reminded parents that Touch Base is actually February 13th on a 3 hour delayed arrival for students. He is unsure now how that will impact flex or even/odd days. He reminded the group that graduation remains on June 9th, 2017. He also reminded parents about IT information night, which was moved to this Thursday and provided an update on Project Lead the Way, in which Hylton Students will be invited to participate at FPHS.

Mr. Martinez reported unanticipated expenditures incurred for carpeting, razing of a shed that did not meet regulation, and more financial consideration for Capital Improvement. FPHS was also hit quite hard with cost for substitute teachers. Mr. Martinez is to propose the next budget in February, which will not be disbursed until May of the following year. He is also anticipating changes relating to the new federal government administration.

Mr. Martinez reported that there will be a curriculum fair on January 18th. AP teachers will be in attendance and the goal is to have information on each class available. Discussion of changes in curriculum included Project Lead the Way courses and an AP Capstone course based on seminar and research approach. Dual enrollment is also being worked on and Mr. Martinez provided information about the 3 teachers who currently are eligible to teach Dual Enrollment courses at \$70 per course for college credit. More information on this will come in the future.

As it relates to Strategic Planning, Mr. Martinez reiterated the emphasis on Special Education and limited English proficient students in certain areas. He remains steadfast on this focus to improve school outcomes. Mr. Martinez also reported on building a Teacher Resource Center in a library conference room to encourage new strategies, like co-teaching. Lastly, he and Ms. Keys will be attending a training for accreditation and the county is preparing for outside visitors to certain schools soon.

Concluding Remarks: Mrs. Guyant adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm

Next Meeting: February 13, 2017 at 7pm in the Library.