SAC Meeting Minutes January 8, 2019

SAC Members Present:

Tracie Casserly

Donna Cooper

Christine Henschel

Shyanne Michel

Nereida Miller

Gina Rodriguez

Madeline Rosario Colon

Neslon Rose

Jodi Swirsky

Alicia Vilarchao

SAC Guests Present:

Marleine Ghaby

Cindy O’Brien

Ms. Casserly called the SAC meeting to order at 3:15 pm in the SPHS Media Center. The November 2018 SAC meeting minutes were disseminated. Ms. Casserly moved that we approve the November SAC minutes. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor, the November minutes were approved.

Ms. Marleine Ghaby (Project Manager from CBRE / Heery) spoke to the SAC committee about the School Choice Enhancement Program (SCEP). As part of the SMART bond, he district has allocated $100,000 to each school to use to improve the condition of instructional spaces and/or educational environments. SCEP projects must be “capital eligible”, meaning the improvements are made to the physical building and/or instructional environments. SCEP projects must have a life cycle greater than 5 years. SCEP items must be inventoried and inspected by the school upon delivery. Some popular choices at other schools for the SCEP projects are: laptops, golf carts, projectors, indoor furniture, outdoor furniture, marquee signs, two-way radios, media center improvements, welcome center renovations, playground upgrades, etc.

Ms. Ghaby gave SAC an overview of the SCEP process. SAC discussed different options for this $100,000 at SPHS. Some of the options discussed were: renovating the bathrooms in the rotunda outside the gym, removing the lockers in the hallways and replacing them with showcases, closing in the open classroom at the end of the 280 hallway, and purchasing more technology. Ms. Ghaby cautioned SAC that any construction project would require a general contractor, and that would eat up about 20% of the cost of the project. However, if we purchased technology, we would not have to lose that 20%. Ms. Ghaby agreed to get us estimates for the ideas discussed. We will revisit this at the next SAC meeting after we have these estimates.

Once SAC narrows down the list of project options, those options go on a ballot. The school then votes on the options. Parents get one vote per student, and each staff member and registered volunteer gets one vote. More will be shared about this voting process once SAC votes on the options for spending this $100,000.

Ms. Casserly updated SAC on the balance in our SAC Accountability Fund. We now have $38,903.77. We had extra money deposited from teachers that elected not to use their supply/LEAD money. This also includes a rollover of our balance from last year.

Ms. Casserly presented a request from Mr. Acierno for SAC Accountability funding to pay for another round of ACT tutoring. The ACT tutoring will start in late January and go through early February. Funding was requested for 15.75 hours X $30 per hour = $472.50 total. Ms. Casserly moved that we vote on approving $472.50 for another round of ACT tutoring. Ms. Henschel seconded the motion. An oral vote was taken. All SAC members present voted “yes”, the motion passed.

Ms. O’brien presented a request from Ms. Joseph for dictionaries for our ELL students. These dictionaries would be for students who speak the following languages: Bengali, Creole, Chinese, French, Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Russian. The quote from Barnes and Noble for these dictionaries is for $1032.92. Ms. Casserly moved that we vote on approving $1032.92 for these ELL dictionaries. Ms. Cooper seconded the motion. An oral vote was taken. All SAC members present voted “yes”, the motion passed.

Ms. Casserly shared information on our School Improvement Plan.

Ms. Casserly shared the feedback from the Community Meeting held on December 11, 2018 at 7 pm in the media center. The Community Meeting was to get input on our new waiver for Professional Study Days. The feedback was all positive, and all of the parents and community members present were in favor of us having Professional Study Days in the 2019/2020 school year. SAC now needs to vote whether to send the new waiver, as it is, to the faculty for a vote, to revise it, or to dismiss it. Ms. Casserly moved that SAC vote to send the new waiver ( as it is) for PSD days to the faculty for a vote. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. All SAC members all agreed to send the new waiver to the faculty for a vote. The motion passed. Faculty members will vote “yes or no” if they want PSD days, and that must pass by 66 2/3% “yes” votes. Faculty members will also vote whether they want 6 or 7 PSD days, and that only needs a simple majority to pass. The faculty vote will be in mid to late January. All new waiver paperwork is due to the district by February 8.

Nominations for SAC Employee of the Month – #1 through #6 rolled over from last meeting - #7 is a new nomination

1. Nominated by Ms. Grady:

I would like to nominate Dahiana Icardo, our ESOL teachers' aide, as SAC employee of the month. She joined us last year from Uruguay where she worked as a dentist. She absolutely loves working with the students and inspires them to succeed. You will often see her translating in the counseling office and classrooms. She assists with preparing the students for testing and helps them to understand what their graduation requirements are. They look up to her as a role model and mentor.

1. Nominated by Mr. Holt:

I would like to nominate John Martin.   He does some amazing projects with his students who seem very interested in the high level work that they do.

1. Nominated by Dr. Pollino:

I would like to nominate Lisa McDearmaid for SAC employee of the month. Lisa gives 150% to her students each and every day. She implements lessons incorporating technology, and cooperative groups which keeps the students interested and engaged. Lisa is more than willing to share her ideas and lessons with our PLC. She is the kind of teacher we all should strive to be!

1. Nominated by Mr. Marino:

I would like to nominate Jessica Palomino for SAC employee of the month.

For the last three years, Jessica was part of the Social Studies department where she taught World History, American History, and Psychology. Last year, Jessica also assisted the DECA program by becoming an advisor and Marketing III/IV teacher.

This year, Jessica has transitioned to the ESE department, and has quickly become an asset helping with morning bus duties and working with the students that need the extra help.

1. Nominated by Ms. Cooper:

I would like to nominate Debbie Vogt. She is such a wealth of knowledge and encouragement and South is a better place because of her.

1. Nominated by Ms. Palomino:

Maria - What she does for our school is amazing! She has ventured way outside of her job responsibilities to welcome and employ our students for service hours.  In all my years teaching, I have never witnessed such a beautiful relationship between a custodial staff member and the colleagues and students alike.  We are truly blessed to have her!

SAC voted to name Ms. McDearmaid as the January SAC Employee of the Month.

New business was rolled over to the SAF meeting, which took place right after the SAC meeting ended at 4:15 pm.