SAC Meeting Minutes April 9, 2019

SAC Members Present:

Tracie Casserly

Niti Chhabra

Donna Cooper

Alyce Culpepper

Christine Henschel

Shyanne Michel

Gina Rodriguez

Nelson Rose

Jodi Swirsky

Alicia Vilarchao

SAC Guests Present:

Cindy O’Brien

Ricardo Marino

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

Ms. Casserly updated SAC on the balance in our SAC Accountability Fund. We now have $33,883.00.

Mr. Marino requested $3712.40 from SAC Accountability Funds to pay for a software program called “HERO”. HERO software monitors and helps to reduce the amount of tardies, absences, and ID infractions. HERO acts as an intervention where students are tracked and recorded for various infractions, before they get in front of an administrator for discipline. HERO uses bar codes on IDs that can be scanned with any registered smartphone, allowing for easy tracking of students for tardies and ID violations. Parents can also download the app for free and see if their kids have been late, received ID warnings, or went to I.S. in real time. Taravella and Ft. Lauderdale H.S. use HERO and have experienced a 30-40% drop in tardies and ID violations.

Dr. Culpepper moved that we vote to approve $3712.40 from SAC Accountability Funds to pay for HERO. Ms. Chhabra seconded the motion. An oral vote was taken, and all SAC members present voted “yes”. The motion passed.

Ms. Casserly gave an update on our school improvement plan, and stated that she would be attending a SAC/SIP training at Pompano Beach H.S. the last week in April to begin planning for the SIP plan for next school year.

There were three nominations for SAC Employee of the Month:

1. Nominated by Ms. McNeile - I would like to nominate Jessica Palomino.  She was a dynamic teacher when in the classroom but is just as dynamic as an ESE facilitator!  She juggles many hats and has so much passion and energy for all the things that she does!  She is always looking on the positive side no matter what the situation is. She has been a great asset to the Fun Squad Planning committee, is an awesome BTU steward and great friend! She makes sure that the faculty is always updated on union business and is a great advocate for us.  We need more people to have her energy and passion for life.
2. Nominated by Dr. Culpepper - Debbie Vogt has been a first-caws teacher throughout her career. She has been at the school forever (retiring with 37years of teaching) and has maintained a very competitive and steady English Department, helping new teachers and supporting the career ones. She has worked with the language arts competition, been the yearbook adviser and started as the first magnet English teacher adding an academic strength to the program for incoming ninth graders and senior project initiatives through literature/humanities. She is the first to teach a new curriculum whether it was magnet or preparing them for Cambridge. She helped initiate and taught the Advanced Placement Capstone diploma which is awarded to students who successfully demonstrate research, critical thinking, and communication skills in their AP Research and AP Seminar courses.
3. Nominated by Ms. Auten-Wallace - Hi, many times the support staff is often over-looked so I wanted to take a moment to nominate one outstanding DHH interpreter, Sean Morrison.  He is one of my dream team members in my post- graduation program, SPHERE/PASS for ESE young adults 18-22. (continued on the back)

Sean works closely with my DHH students of different levels and behaviors. He stepped up at the beginning of the year to help me through one of my roughest school starts in 30 plus year when my mother-in-law was battling cancer and I was a mess before and after her passing--along with Jaine Browett, and Angelina Smith.  Without them, I would not have made it.

When our second interpreter was removed due to need, we had to scramble to restructure our program to make sure that the varied levels of DHH students, as well as the SVE students would continue to have a strong instruction component, both in the classroom and out in the community, where we go daily.  Many times we had to often split him between the kids to meet the needs of all the DHH kids for the given site instruction. I keep telling him that I wish I could clone him as it has not been easy, but he has been a trooper and works really well with all of us.

He is a big part of our team and is always ready with ideas and/or suggestions to help us help the DHH to have more success in comprehension and application of information. I have learned a lot from Sean about the DHH population and have enjoyed watching him interact with not only the DHH students, but the rest of the kids, as well. He really connects with the students--so neat to watch.

Sean is a low flyer but sometimes I think low flyers need a light to shine on who they are and what they do every day to make a difference with the students and within our program. He is AWESOME!

SAC voted to name Ms. Vogt the April SAC Employee of the Month.

There was no new business. The SAC meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm. The SAF meeting followed the SAC meeting.