

SAC MINUTES FOR February 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Beitz at 8:18 AM.

A motion to approve the minutes for the January SAC meeting was made by Mr. Devant and second by Ms. Cordoves. It was approved unanimously.

SIP –

Mrs. Nissen asked that Department Heads review how each department was doing with the SIP plan.

Departments:

Science – Ms. Swinerton - Science Fair and Invent America are done! The Science Fair Open House was held on January 17th in the Media Center. A huge thanks to Stephanie Diez who managed the entire process unassisted. Parents and students had the opportunity to view Invent America projects as well as traditional science fair projects. For the first year Invent America projects were considered for judging at the county competition as they fit within the parameters of the engineering category. Two of these projects were sent on to the county competition to represent Tequesta Trace. One was a working hydraulic arm created by Sebastian Mezza grade 6, and a Lego piece sorter built by Pedro (P.J.) Gonzalez grade 7. As for traditional science fair projects Tequesta was represented by 8th grade students Carolina Ortega and Sophia Mazza with their “Does Double-Dipping Spread Germs?” and Alessandro Busca’s “Solar Panel Project”. Tequesta has had a few ribbon winners at the county competition in previous years but this year we had a bumper crop with three finishers in the top three for their categories. Srijan Deoraj grade 7 earned a 3rd place ribbon for his investigation “Evaluation of PCB-153 on Breast Cell Proliferation”, Chris Januario grade 8 placed second with his “Shrimpbiosis” investigation, and for the second year in a row Tequesta Trace has a first-place winner who will compete in the state competition in March. Riley Schneider and Gowri Abhinanda grade 8 presented their investigation titled “Radical Radiation” which used plants as a model for investigating the dangers of EMF radiation from cell phones.

Teachers within the department are engaging in multiple professional development opportunities. Barb Shields is attending trainings on Project Based Learning which the research shows is the best way for all students to learn. Paul Passman attended a conference centered around the education of exceptional children, and as part of that conference attended a session on Universal Design another research-based up and coming trend in education.

On a final note, as part of the Re-imagining Middle School effort one of the new electives being offered is one on weather and climatology designed and taught by Paul Passman.

Electives – Ms. Sikorski - [Show Choir is preparing for Spring Showcase.](#)

The symphonic band and Jazz Band performed at Weston Town Center for the Arts Day events. The same weekend many 6-8 grade band members attended a [Honors band camp](#) at Cypress Bay [High School](#) with members of the Falcon Cove Band.

The Tequesta Trace Jazz band "Jazz Catz" will be performing as part of and attending performances at the 21st Annual Melton Mustafa Jazz Festival at the [Historic Lyric Theater](#) in Miami. The Festival includes performances and workshops with local and international Jazz legends Nestor Torres, Nicole Yarling, Jesse Johns Jr, Richie Cole and others. In addition to performing and learning jazz, the students in the Jazz Catz will [have](#) a great opportunity to learn about the [Historic Lyric Theater's](#) local and national contributions to cultural diversity as part of Black [History Month](#) education.

Mr. Scott and Mr. Dor the band directors at Cypress Bay [High School](#) did a afternoon Jazz Clinic with the "Jazz Catz" February 7th to [help](#) the "Catz" prepare for the Jazz Festival Performance.

Tequesta Trace Jazz Band [had](#) 3 students selected for the Broward All County [Honors Jazz Band](#), Pablo [Hernandez](#) on Piano, Jeston [Curry](#) on Trombone, and Brandon Castro on Tenor Saxophone. [There Concert is March 1st.](#)

Tequesta Trace Jazz [has](#) begun its 2nd Jazz Band Rehearsals after school. The "Jazz Kittenz" is open to newer student musicians wanting to learn jazz who [has](#) basic technique on a Jazz instrument or wants to be part of the "Jazz Catz" next year. Jazz Kittenz [had](#) 27 new jazz students attend rehearsal and promises to be a fabulous group by the Spring Concert.

The TTMS music program will be featured in the next issue of Weston Sports and Activities Directory, the article will feature an interview about the Community Outreach and activities the TTMS music program is part of this year.

[Tequesta Trace Advanced Band and Symphonic band \[have\]\(#\) begun preparing for District Music Festival on March 20-21.](#)

The Tequesta Trace Junior Thespians, Troupe 88241, attended the Florida State Festival in Orlando in February. All individual events received Superior and Excellent ratings, and our one-act play, Conflict, received Superior ratings in both performance and technical categories. Additionally, the show received the award for Best Ensemble in a Play. With State festival behind us, we are excited to begin rehearsals for our Spring production, Seussical the Musical, which will be performed on May 9, 10, and 11 at 7pm at Western High School.

Peer Counselors are in classrooms working side by side with students.

ESE- Mrs. Winter - SVE will be beginning FSAA testing on Feb. 26 and continuing up until Spring Break.

Last week, Ms. Passman, our Speech Language Pathologist, attended the 2018 Council For Exceptional Children Convention in Tampa.

One of our mainstreamed ESE students, Pedro (P.J.) Gonzalez-7th grade, placed 1st at the TTMS Science Fair. He competed with other winners at the Broward County Science Fair on Feb. 9th.

Support staff assisted with the WIDA testing for ESOL students on February 6th. The speaking portion of the test continues as students are pulled one on one by support staff.

ESE support facilitators are in the process of reviewing accommodations and supports for upcoming testing. Also, we have begun to attend staffings for incoming 6th graders from our feeder schools. Support staff have also been attending "Support Facilitator Showcases" at participating middle schools to review and visit different models of support. Also, the open house this year for incoming 6th graders is April 4 at 6:30. A flyer was sent to the elementary schools to invite ESE parents/students to come at 6 PM for a school tour starting in the media center.

Literacy- Mrs. Manning - Mrs. Ibarra and Mrs. Felieu are sharing news from their Spanish classrooms- Spanish Competition meets every Monday for those students participating. The next meeting is February 20th. Students are given feedback and the Spanish teachers can monitor their progress in the areas of declamation, impromptu, poster presentations, media and talent. They are excited to participate.

Our TTMS Literary Fair is taking place this week under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer Wilson. Judging will be completed by Friday and winners will be announced at our next SAC meeting. Student writings will be on display in the Media Center throughout this week and next. We invite our school community to view the exemplary literary works of our students.

All ELA teachers are continuing to prepare our students for the upcoming March 6th FSA Writing exam. Next week, students will select specific writing target areas that they would like to improve in our 7th and 8th grade workshops. At the same time, our 6th graders will be meeting one on one with their ELA teacher to receive specific feedback to improve their individual writings.

As included in our SIP plan and working towards our goal of meeting the needs of our "bubble kids", our TTMS Literacy Workshop is running smoothly as today is Week 3 of our 10-week sessions. Two sessions of 6th graders are eagerly participating in the morning before school. Our 7th and 8th graders are working during their electives. These workshops are conducted every Wednesday, and we are grateful to the SAC committee for providing the funding for this program.

Finally, we encourage students to continue the use of Vocabulary.com, NewsELA.com, as well as other programs such as NoRedInk and ReadWorks , which provide practice in literacy skills in an interactive and engaging way.

ESOL- Ms. Franco - The ESOL students have begun their Access 2.0 testing. The test consists of 4 parts listening, reading, writing and speaking. The test scores are used to determine the students' language classification and their course placements for next year.

We are moving into the second 10 weeks of tutoring. We currently have 38 students enrolled in Language Enrichment Camp. Students are divided into three different groups according to their action area needs. The students have had an average usage of 17 hours with a scaled score increase of 106 points. They have been practicing decoding words and learning phonics skills along with comprehension.

In class we are working on determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text. We have been reading about the Olympics and different Winter sports. We are also continuing with our testing words activities and getting ready for the FSA writing test on March 6.

Media-Mrs. Dillmeier – Not in attendance.

Social Studies – Mr. Devant - In our PLCs all teachers are fully engaged and sharing best practices and bring new ideas and insights to every meeting. These meetings are very helpful for sharing information but is not limited to PLCs – we are constantly communicating between classes, at lunch and emails. I am also sharing information throughout all PLC grade levels and individual teachers are meeting their respective feeder grade teachers to see how better to serve our students as they progress through the three grades in middle school social studies.

All grade levels: Students were, for the most part, asked to watch the State of the Union Address on 1/30/18 and detail the issues raised, record action(s) proposed and evaluate the president's actions, if any, and if not propose their own actions to solve what they thought was the most important issue raised.

Black History Month is being taught through lectures, student research and movies such as "Eyes on the Prize" a 3-disc documentary detailing the segregation of people of color in the United States and the struggles, marches and fights in and out of the courtroom that were needed and still are needed to advance Constitutional rights to all citizens. Students are seeing similarities from the 1900's to today and we are thinking about how to continue bringing about meaningful change to our communities and the country at large. Remember history doesn't look like history when we're living through it. Until all people have full rights and complete equality none of us truly have it.

6th grade is working on finishing up Rome and testing next week. Some have finished Rome and are now starting the Ancient Americas. An emphasis on Meso-America and South America. The Olmec, Zapotecs, Maya, Aztecs, Inca are the civilizations of focus.

7th grade has finished the three branches of the Federal Government and is now focused on State and after that moving on to Local government.

SS.7. C.2.2 Evaluate the obligations citizens have; to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.

SS.7. C.3.13 Compare the constitutions of the United States and Florida.

SS.7. C.3.14 Differentiate between local, state, and federal governments' obligations and services.

SS.7. C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.

SS.7. C.3.4 Identify the relationship and division of powers between the federal government and state governments.

8th grade We have shown a video but also reading about young people in the civil rights area. We are studying the first few presidents and America moving West. Students made brochures to attract people to move West as well as developing businesses that would have been set up in the American West in the 1800s. Standard SS8A.4 that talks about moving West.

Math-Mrs. Cordoves - One of the goals of the Math department, as stated in this year's School Improvement Plan, is to improve the scores of our lowest 25th percentile of students. In effort to address the needs of these students, we have researched various online programs to help our Math teachers individualize their instruction and remediation. As mentioned in our last SAC meeting, we looked into purchasing the iReady program for our students, but it was beyond our budget. After further research we have decided to pilot the TenMarks online program. TenMarks allows us to use their program free of charge for 30 days. Teachers will be adding the students in their regular classes and assigning extra practice specific to the standards they are teaching. They will also be able to identify each student's weakness and assign specific practice for that standard. At the end of the 30-day trial and after our FSA scores come in we will determine if this is a program we want to purchase for next year.

We will also continue our work towards covering all the standards necessary for our students to be successful in the upcoming Math FSA. We still have many lessons and standards to teach. However, we have made progress, and here are the current scores by grade level.

Our 6th grade students have successfully completed their unit of study on ratios, proportional relationships, expressions and equations. 91% of our 6th grade regular students showed mastery of these standards. Our 6th grade Advanced students were working on standards covering Expressions and Equations this month, and so far, 89% are showing mastery of those skills.

GEM 6 students have completed their 6th grade curriculum and are now working on their GEM curriculum covering 7th and 8th grade standards in preparation for transition into Algebra 1 Honors next year.

7 grade regular students just completed a unit on calculating the area and circumference of circles as well as the area and volume of various three-dimensional figures. 95% of our students are showing mastery, as per their performance task.

In our 7th grade advanced classes, students learned how to calculate measures of center and variability for two sets of data, in order to make comparisons and predictions. 96% of our students scored a 70% or above on their most recent formative assessment.

8th grade Pre-Algebra students learned to identify, write, and graph linear functions. 60% of our students showed mastery of the 5 standards covered in this unit. Our 8th grade Algebra and Geometry students continue their review and preparation for the Algebra and Geometry EOCs which will be held at the beginning of May.

All our students have begun their review for the FSA math test. Teachers are using a variety of tools to address the remediation and enrichment of the standards. The district's Math SharePoint provides us with test item specifications, Mini-MAFS, fluency quizzes and other resources to help students practice FSA-style questions.

Next month we will also be practicing for our Math FSA on the testing platform. Teachers will guide the students through a simulated test to allow the students to become familiar with the test format and the tools available to them.

PTA- Cristina Yanes spoke of the PTA getting everything ready for the Cougar Challenge and possible distribution of the monies collected.

BTU - Mrs. Passman - BTU continues to work to help members with concerns. BTU also is providing information regarding membership benefits and professional development offerings. Several trips to Tallahassee are being planned to lend our voices to the need of additional funding for public education.

Future Business – Mr. Micensky said there was none.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49.