Stewart Elementary School SAC Meeting Notes September 26, 2023

# Welcome

Present Members: Joseph Hoagland, Megan Haney, Theresa Schroder, Tiffany Sanson, Jillian Ptak, Courtney Schneider, John Buhler, Jessica Chavez, Kim Schultz, Barbara Andruzzi Additional Attendees: Lisa Heathcote

# Bylaws

Adopted as drafted & circulated. No changes from prior years.

**Election of Officers** Megan Haney – Chair John Buhler – Vice Chair

Theresa Schroder – Recording Secretary

# School Improvement Plan Summary

Includes details on demographics of school, data from the school. Used to map out the school’s goals for the year and is sent to the district and state.

Includes items such as: Mission statement, who our leadership team is, Title 1 status, demographics of student body, school grade history (all As for past several years), attendance, course failures, achievement percentage by grade/subject, etc. New category added this year is Positive culture and environment.

Current enrollment = 390 students

* Down slightly from prior years, but no longer bussing in from Palmetto and Miller districts.
* Enrollment did drop slightly due to covid/pandemic years.
* Young family population in NW Bradenton is slightly declining.
* Palma Sola also down about 200 kids from prior years due to similar reasons.

# Mission Critical Funds

Funds allocated to the school and will be used for Mad Science, teacher planning days by grade level (ex. Subs brought in for the whole grade level, which allows group planning all at one time). Mad Science will be offered to 5th grade during the day. They will receive two 5-session programs utilizing these funds.

In addition, Stewart has contracted with Mad Science to provide two after school sessions available to Stewart families for a fee as they have done in years past. Science scores have improved to top 2-3 in the district which may also be linked to Mad Science in addition to Mr. Schultz, additional science work during regular classes, etc.

Stewart still has approx. $6,200 ESSR grant which is being used for after school tutoring. Grant is not being renewed, was likely tied to Covid makeup/catch-up. Also being used on cleaning supplies, etc.

# Dress Code

Email sent out towards beginning of the year.

Style of clothes is changing, so good to remind parents what is acceptable and what is not.

# Book Order List and Beanstack

List of books being purchased sent for SAC review prior to the meeting. Good feedback from members – no issues raised.

Will circulate updates any time Ms. Drao is looking to purchase new books.

Most books that have been flagged by the district are in middle & high school levels. Not as much of an issue with elementary age books.

Beakstack cataloging:

* Unfortunately, it isn’t viable for volunteers to help enter books into the system because it must be a district credentialed user on the computers that are utilized to scan and enter books into the system.
* Teachers are working through their classroom libraries in groups/stages. Made easier because most teachers sort books in bins already.
* Heaviest lifting is required by Ms. Drao who must approve each book entered by teachers.
  + Approval must be made by a certified Media Specialist.
  + Ms. Drao will need to approve 2,000-3,000 books in total.
  + Coach Lespasio is also certified Media Specialist so he may be able to help assist.
* Deadline for books to be cataloged and approved is December 2023.

# New Staff

* Carol Grogan – EBD. Has brought some good strategies for the classroom.
* Erin Huffman – 1-year only filling in for Ms. Kasten, kindergarten.
* Jamie Highers – 1-year only filling in for Ms. Bates, 1st grade.
* Jessica Runck – working as EBD Para-pro.
* YuLin Hsia- ESE – splits the week. Is at Stewart three days a week, at Anna Maria the other two days.
* Carol Pettit – Building substitute. District found it works better and is more cost effective to have someone on staff at the school to sub every day since there is usually an absence of some sort every day. When there is more than one absence, subs will be pulled from the substitute pool.
* Jessica Roarx – School Nurse

# 10-day Count

District projected we would lose 2 teachers and a para. (Expected one 1st grade, 5th grade and para).

Ended up losing just a Para, Jenna Sloan who was moved to Prine.

Teacher openings are still a problem in the district – approximately 12 openings. Fortunately, not yet an issue at Stewart.

# Legislative Updates

Nothing new to report. No new legislation since last school year.

# FAST Testing

First round of testing nearing completion. Will be used as a baseline for tracking improvements over the year. Initial scores are based on whole year expectations.

Scores for Stewart on 1st round testing are so far at the top in several grade levels, or towards the top in the district

* Kinder = 1st in math
* 2nd grade = 1st in math and reading

Email will be sent out to parents with reminders on how to access FAST test scores, and how to interpret scores. Will reiterate this is a state-wide/state-mandated testing which the school is complying with.

Learning gains have been brought back into the school grades component of FAST testing since we are now in the 2nd year of FAST testing. Learning gains criteria was waived last year school since it was the first year of new testing format/structure. This will benefit schools who make learning gains (especially as respects the “lowest 25%” cohort in each school which impact results more) than it will for schools who already have high proficiency levels in their school.

# School Safety

School safety is the #1 top priority for new Manatee County Superintendent

* All windows 5-feet and under will be set up with level 7 protection film – Stewart already has this on doors, paid for by PTO. Remaining will be paid for by district.
* Mr. G and other district guardians will have a backpack rifle – likely will arrive in 2nd quarter or second semester. This was suggested because of the training at old Sugg middle school before it was demolished. The goal is to match potential fire power someone may enter the school with. Other equipment such as shields, and blockade bars will also be provided.
* At the district level, Guardians will now be in every school, including those that already have SROs. Previously schools with SROs did not have a Guardian. In addition to being present to respond to incidents, Guardians complete preventative checks at the school such as looking in bushes, walking the perimeter of the property, becoming familiar with families and volunteers on campus, checking fire extinguishers, making sure all doors are locked, checking perimeters, etc. SROs aren’t doing that level of detail and are instead “available if something happens”.
* District assessing schools to find additional areas for improvement.

Intruder Active Shooter Drills

* Completed in each individual classroom.
* Sessions are tailored to age rage as respects the message being given for the training.
* Training sessions are timed, and are completed multiple times for efficiency, and for quick reaction times. “Be ready to go at any time”.
* Have completed all grades except kindergarten in the cafeteria. Will also complete for playground and PE, and “most inconvenient place you can be on campus that isn’t your own classroom”. Want the kids to be prepared for anything.

Stewart has been recognized by Guardian managers for being ahead of the game on safety items.

Slats on fences were added, paid for by PTO. Left some areas open so there aren’t places for someone to hide.

**Future Meeting Dates** November 14 – 5pm March 19 – 5pm

May 14 – 5pm

# Other Matters

(None)