School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Dr. Mona Jain Middle School September 11th, 2023

# Rescheduled SAC meeting was initially scheduled for August 28, 2023, but was canceled due to Hurricane Idalia.

**Attendees:** Kristina Engelsberg, Silke Porter, Jessica Meyer, Delaney Arnold, Devin Arnold, Brenda Arnold, Dana Ulstad, Shayne Casto, Summer Jahn, Lauren McCaw, Tracie Flanigan, Katie Hunt, Trisha Bartley, Heather Lemke, Kim Malech, Stephen Filers, Melissa Cohen, Susan Dunahue, Jenna Holden, Jen Sammy, Kate Barlaug and Antoinette Smith. (22)

**Welcome:** Kristina Engelsberg passed around the sign-in sheet, the Bylaws of the School Advisory Council for Dr. Mona Jain Middle School, and the School Advisory Council Frequently Asked Questions packet.

**Call to Order:** Kristina Engelsberg called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m., and Susan Dunahue seconded the motion.

* Kristina Engelsberg introduced herself as returning her 5th year as the SAC Chair. Amanda Keitel is our Vice President, and Tracie Flanigan is our returning Secretary. Delaney is our returning Student representative, and Deputy Filers is our Community Member.
* Mrs. Engelsberg explained the role of the SAC is to support the school, teachers, and administration.
* There are ten voting members for SAC. The demographics of the official SAC membership are matched to the ethnicity of the school. Those interested in being considered as a voting member signed up, first come. Membership at the meetings is mandatory, with two unexcused absences.
* Our current school demographics are 64% White, 14% Black, and 22% Hispanic.

**Approval of Minutes:** May 22, 2023 Meeting notes were passed out and reviewed. The minutes we motioned for approval by Kristina Engelsburg and Trisha Bartley seconded.

# Principal’s Report by Kate Barlaug:

* FAST testing for Pre-Algebra is this Wednesday. Those in Algebra and Geometry will not have FAST testing, as they will have an EOC test at the end of the year.
* There will be a writing assessment in October, February and April. Reading assessment 98% completed.
* The First Quarter Student Awards are planned for October 12.
* Bull Rewards: Students are earning and turning in stickers for positive behavior. (Mrs. Barlaug distributed the Bull Rewards sheet to those in attendance).
* Teachers nominate Students of the Month (30 total) based on responsibility or character traits. The goal is to have 300 students recognized by year-end.
* Progress Reports post on Friday.
* Clubs: Art Club-Thursdays, TSA first meeting on Wednesday, Drama meets Tuesday and Wednesday, FCA on September 19th. Also, FBLA and Digital Arts will be starting with dates to be confirmed.
* The students had voted over two weeks on our bull mascot's name and decided on Bartholomew (Bart). Bart will be given an ID and his picture in the yearbook. Dr. Mona Jain’s daughter was consulted and approved.
* Students are doing great wearing their IDs. Lost or missing IDs can be replaced before school for $3.00 and after homeroom for $5.00.

# State Testing Data Review:

* The School achieved an A and increased in every area except Language Arts (still an A, but lower based on new testing). Learning Gains (year-on-year improvement by student) is returning this year. All EOCs will be computer-based this year, and the school has sufficient computers to test every student at once. Algebra and Geometry students will have an assignment during the FAST testing. Students will know their grades, and parents will be notified when they are available on FOCUS.

# Enrollment:

* 927 students are currently enrolled: 6th - 270, 7th - 265 and 8th - 392.

# Staff Update:

* There are open positions for ELA, Digital Discovery, and PE Tech.

# New Business/Open Floor:

* Dress Code: Kristina Engelsberg acknowledged there are concerns with the dress code and that many were in attendance because of it. She recognized it is hard to change from summer to the first couple of months of school and dress code violations occur yearly. The schools are under the district policy and do not make their policies for dress code. An open discussion was held on consistency so no child feels signaled out—the dress code specifics (leggings, shirt type, and size). A school board member discussed the process for the district dress code ( 4-5 months) and would not support a change of the district dress code policy mid-school year.
* Scheduled in Homeroom: A parent asked why students received their class schedules on the first day of school. Principal Barlaug indicated that this practice is consistent with the high school and is done to give the guidance counselors more time to address schedule corrections and issues. Mrs. Baurlaug acknowledges that there were more mistakes than she believed were acceptable and is committed to better training and fewer hands involved next year. Kristina Englesberg recommended that parents stay in touch with guidance. Mrs. Baulaug stated that test scores drive the master schedule.
* Spanish Classes: Discussed Spanish as a high school credit vs. Conversation Spanish for middle school students occurred. Some parents would like to see Spanish as a middle school class, not a high school class. FLVS was suggested.
* PRAGER University: A parent asked about using PRAGER University by teachers in classrooms. Mrs. Barloug and the school board member confirmed that PRAGER is not approved as instructional content and should not be in use by any teachers.

# Adjournment:

Kristina Engelsburg adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m., a motion carried by Trisha Bartley.

**Next Meeting:** October 30, 2023