

Palma Sola Elementary
School Advisory Council (SAC)
Thursday, September 22, 2022

Those in attendance included: Abi vanOstenbridge, Kelly Lipp, Tabitha Hager, Samantha Dominis, Katie Wilking, Lindsay Coleman, Michele Pannell-Miller, Brett Hubbard

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Heather Cherry, the Palma Sola Assistant Principal. She welcomed everyone and shared that Principal, Jennifer Grimes, was participating in a School District of Manatee County Job Fair. The only remaining position to be filled for Palma Sola is an ESE PreK teacher. She asked everyone to introduce themselves and review the minutes from the previous meeting.

Heather Cherry talked about the FSA data. She said that Palma Sola earned 428 points. That is 3 points from an “A”. Heather shared that both she and Mrs. Grimes are incredibly proud of the job the teachers did last year with all the changes and pressures. The students did very well and worked really hard. Points are earned based on grade level proficiency, grade level growth (from one year to another), and on the growth of the lowest quartile students. She went on to explain that the FSA ended last year and has been replaced with FAST. The FSA was one big test given at the of the year. The new assessment (FAST) will be given three (3) times throughout the year: at the beginning of the year, January, and at the end of the year. A letter for parents is being prepared that will provide additional information regarding what the parents see in the Parent Portal and what it means. Proficiency will be looked at throughout the year. All testing is CBT (computer-based testing). The younger students will need to practice more with a mouse. The CBT provides immediate feedback. Our testing coordinator, Marzena Murphy, is doing a great job transitioning from FSA to FAST.

Heather Cherry reported on Safety and Security at Palma Sola. She shared that prior to the return of students, the Alyssa’s Alert badges’ batteries were tested. Two badges set off the ‘real deal’ alarm accidentally. She said that the first two (2) Intruder drills this school year went smoothly. She went on to explain more about the Intruder drills. They occur monthly. The students are aware of the safe places on campus, if they are outside of the classroom when the drill begins. Everyone knows where the reunification areas are. She explained about the term ‘hard corner’ in the classroom. A ‘hard corner’ is a spot where no one is visible to anyone trying to look into the classroom. All the doors are checked each day, more than once a day, to be sure they are locked. Law Enforcement is on campus for each and every Intruder Drill. On several occasions, Law Enforcement has complimented Palma Sola on their drills. They like the safe, orderly way the drills are conducted.

The meeting was turned over to the PTO at 6:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2022.