

**SAC Minutes**  
October 30, 2019

1. **Welcome** - Call to Order - Mr. Richardson
2. **Approval of Minutes** - SAC minutes from the last meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Motion to amend the minutes to add a question and answer to section 6. Rezoning, subsection H – “Q: Will the school be speaking to the children potentially affected by the rezoning process? We are encouraging families to have that conversation with their students, as some parents may want us to and others may not.” Motion - Mrs. Chen, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mrs. Lis
3. **Approval of 2019-2020 SIP** – The SIP is a document that was written by Gullett staff members and was distributed at the previous meeting. The district signed off on it and we need to vote to approve. Motion – Mrs. Lis, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mr. Pesola. Vote was put out to the SAC members and the SIP was approved.
4. **Update on School Benchmark Data** - The goal is to maintain or exceed our scores from last year. Gullett was in the top 3 schools across Manatee county for Math, ELA and for 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Science. Forth scored 89% in math and made us the top school in all of Manatee County. The teachers are knocking it out of the park.  
**A.** We had meetings all this week to help get interventions in place, where needed. This shows we are going in the right direction.
5. **Discussion of Bylaws for SAC membership** – At the district meeting there was a conversation going on about the voting members for SAC. The bylaws at the state level state a committee of 10 members, but that is up for negotiation. A vote will take place at the 11/12 District meeting and then our SAC will have to decide how to move forward. We have always had 10 to make sure we met the school demographics. As SAC is a voting group, it was always thought to be beneficial to keep the governing board to a manageable size. The SAC makeup has nothing to do with numbers, where you live or how much money you make. The members are chosen strictly by demographics. We are committed to 10, but we will assess if the rule is changed.  
**Q:** Who will make this decision? The School Board  
**Q:** What changes will affect our school? Some of the statues are up for question. Every school for years has had 10 voting members. The public hearing will be on 11/12. Each SAC will then need to decide how many members they want to represent the school.  
**Q:** How do you break a tie? The 9 parents vote and Mr. Richardson.  
**Q:** How do you become a voting member? At the first meeting nominations were taken, either by nominating themselves or being nominated for the positions. A ballot was created and a vote was held at the second meeting. Parents must be voted in by parent, teacher by teachers and support staff by support staff.  
**Q:** If this passes does that null and void the need for demographic makeup? No, we still need to meet the percentages based on our school.  
**Q:** Can you provide clarity about SAC? They vote on the School Improvement Plan, which is a document that schools put together each year for achievements and goals. It ties into FSA scores. The state allocates funds to schools every year. Last year because of our A rating, it was \$107,000. Typically this goes toward teacher and staff bonuses. A committee is formed with a SAC member, teachers and staff. They determine how the funds will be allocated. If uniforms were to be considered at school, that would be brought to the SAC. A subcommittee would be formed to gain an understanding of the schools wishes, but ultimately the SAC would vote. SAC ensures checks and balances, deal with procedural things, issues with traffic patterns, etc. SAC is the governing body for the school. The members of SAC have no say at a district level unless they are chosen for a committee at the district level.

6. **District Rezoning Plans Presentation** - Don Sauer – Thanks for having me back. We are within the 30 day window for public notice of the 3 current plans. Gullett falls under area 2 which includes: Manatee El, Bashaw, Freedom, Samoset and Gullett. The goal of all of this is to ensure students are picked up and dropped off buses in a timely manner. The buses in our county go on the elementary school runs and then get the middle school students.
- A. The district opened 3 new schools this year, a high school, a middle and an elementary. There were no new drivers hired and we didn't add any new buses. We used what we had available.
  - B. The rezoning was very driven by transportation. Gullett got involved because of 2 major pockets, Manatee palms, down by 27<sup>th</sup> Street and a pocket just west of I75, off RT 64.
  - C. There were 3 teachers, 3 parents and 1 admin invited from each school affected. From there, the groups were mixed and each committee had teachers and parents from all the schools. The 3 committees met away from each other. They all started to work on moving children to more local schools in their neighborhoods. Mr. Sauer was at the meetings for any questions from the committees, to help break down different areas and help reallocate numbers, as needed.
  - D. Two committees moved things in exactly the same way.
    - Q:** What about all the communities east of Lorraine Road? Why wasn't McNeal included? There are no pockets that go to McNeal. They have their own rezoning with Myakka. If we use roads as natural boundaries and look at Polo Run, Panther Ridge about 70 students in total. 19 already go to McNeal and then there are 21 and 25 at Gullett. Lakewood National has 0 students at McNeal.
    - Q:** Do those numbers include east of 675? Yes, those numbers include those areas. There is a possibility of sending kids past 675, to Myakka. We spoke to transport and in Florida State, if a bus has flashers on cars must stop to let kids cross the street. There have been 17 accidents and 3 losses of life in the State of Florida. We are looking at east of 675 going to Myakka and West of 675 coming to Gullett. The issue with that bus is that it regularly arrives at Gullett at 8:45am. A solid 20 minutes after the school day has started.
    - Q:** How were the pockets defined? 20 to 30 years ago, there was a complaint filed about equal rights. The office of civil rights came up with a plan to make all our schools look similar. 20 years ago the district was 70% Caucasian. Now the district is 49.8% Caucasian and 50.2% all other.
    - Q:** Before the pockets from Gullett, where did they all go? Some from west Bradenton went to Bashaw. Others at Wakeland, but it has since become a choice school with an IB program. In 07/08 they were moved.
    - Q:** Can you share that history? This is Mr. Sauer's third year in this department. Records had crashed, so some info was pieced together. In 07/08 Gullett opened. Grey Hawk was the first community districted to Gullett from Witt. The district built Gullett 8 to 10 years too early, but we have to work in the now. There are 3,000 empty seats in the district, just in elementary. The state of Florida will not provide money to build any new schools if we have empty seats. By moving students back to their community schools, we will fill those empty seats. The future building should be able to be absorbed by Gullett.
    - Q:** Are those 3,000 seats spread throughout? Yes, they are all over the district. We worked to not over populate the schools by choice and hardships, so we shut the doors. Williams was 200 students over capacity and now they are one hundred and change under. In Gullett, no one other than siblings have been accepted. There is a big fine in the state of Florida if we go over class size.
    - Q:** Given we were over capacity last year, why were some blocks of Grey Hawk rezoned to Gullett? 42 of these students were zoned to Gullett, 27 already were coming here and 15 were at Freedom. This plot of land was purchased after the fact, so this school zone did not include that area. They are actually built into Freedom zones, but in an interest of keeping the community together, that area was zoned for Gullett.
    - Q:** What are the regulations for class size? K-3: 18 & 4-5: 22 Being we are a district of choice, these numbers are assessed at a school level not a class level. Some schools need to keep their numbers per teacher, but given our choice status in the district, its widely at school level. Gullett had to work very hard to make it work. Gullett's numbers are K-3: 17.94 & 4-5: 22 as an average.

**Q:** How well does the district work with developers? There is an understanding that a majority of the development is occurring west of 75, south of the river. East of here and north of the river, near fort hammer, things are happening too. How well they are planning for the future is not my department. Please take this just as info that needs to be fact checked. The land by premier could be a high school, maybe an elementary school. Being Grey Hawk is across 64, if 250 students are moved from Freedom to manatee elementary and the 270 from Grey Hawk are moved to Freedom. That is a wash for Freedom student-wise. There are schools looking to replace portables with 10 classrooms, to prepare for future growth. A wing would cost the district 3 million, while a new school would cost 25 – 26 million. Planning department uses plans to assess. There are 4 developments coming into this area looking to bring in another 250 students. They are looking at occupancy out to 2050, so they know it is coming, but over time. There can always be a drop in the housing market. At the 10 day count, the count in the district went up 400 students over the projections. This is not much when growing by the thousands.

**Q:** What is the difference between committees B and A/C? B moved one pocket to Freedom vs Bashaw, however they still moved Grey Hawk to Freedom. There was also a pocket from Manatee El to Samoset.

**Q:** Who came up with the initial pockets? There were several areas that needed to be addressed due to transportation. An area in Palmetto with 3 pockets. Daughtry and Braden River, Myakka and McNeal. Then there was a middle school pocket for Braden River and King.

**Q:** Schools were only considered if they have a pocket? Yes

**Q:** Historically, demographics were taken into account when zoning schools, is that still true? Yes, we still do, but our district demographics have changed drastically in the last 20/30 years. The demographic makeup for Manatee El did not change at all. Freedom will go from 55% free and reduced lunch to about 35% given the potential rezoning options. Gullett will be the same after the fact.

**Q:** Two maps have Grey Hawk leaving Gullett what does that mean for our kids? If the kids are here now, they get to stay. This is in writing in our procedures, whether through choice or hardships, if a student starts at a school, they are guaranteed to finish at that school. Typically this is conditional as long as the student remains in good standing academically and behaviorally. If a student remains in a school after being redistricted, their position in the school cannot be revoked. If you currently have a student in K, 1 to 4 and Grey Hawk gets moved, but you elect to stay, the only change will be you have to provide transport. As long as Gullett is over capacity, the siblings cannot automatically attend. If it is overcapacity, it is over capacity for everyone. These are some tough choices that have to be made. Policy 5120 does not address. The office of student assignment, the procedures are there. We are doing choice early. It was always done in March, but this year it will be in December and all online through the focus portal. We are off from school for 2 weeks, but it can still be done online. Hopefully everyone will know by March.

**Q:** Will students from Grey Hawk have to choose in? No, you just need to tell me you want to stay. A form will come home and you just have to let us know, yes you want to stay. We have to notify everyone who is going to be moved. The 270 in Grey Hawk are all over, some at Willis and Wakeland. Charter and private schools are not counted, so the 270 are all in public schools. All will be notified and everyone needs to let me know if they want to stay.

**Q:** If choice is closed here, why are you pushing so fast? Choice is open for other schools and we need to let everyone know so they can decide if they want to go somewhere else.

**Q:** Why not rezoned to Witt? They are overcrowded.

**Q:** If this goes through, we were just rezoned in Grey Hawk and were granted a bus for a year. What is the possibility of having a bus again for a year? Everything is driven by transportation, that's why all these changes are being put in place.

**Q:** When will it be possible to notify you that we want to stay? Before December because we need to know where everyone will go. Everyone will be given until January to make a decision. We will send something to the homes to let everyone know to inform the district.

**Q:** Will it go home with the kids? I have no budget. I can go to the Superintendent and ask.

**Q:** What is the time frame if you want to move? Anything that falls within 60 days can be accepted as current, but anything outside of 60 days, you must wait.

**Q:** What happens if the vote gets delayed? I don't know.

**Q:** What happens if everyone decides to stay? We will need more portables.

**Q:** Has there ever been an analysis of a family like mine? I have one child in special education and 2 in regular education. We are zoned here, but my son is in the special education class at Freedom. **A:** That unit needed to be moved out due to the overcrowding. It should come back to Gullett. That should get taken care of in a year or two. Adamant about children being allowed to stay, so slow changes will happen. If you email me, I try to respond in 24 hours. I'm a dad, I get it. I'll track down info, if I can.

**Q:** In this app there is a red circle above this area. What does that mean? (Discussion and presentation of the app between Mr.Sauer and the parent.) That is just a visual representation of the 2 mile radius that doesn't qualify for transportation within a zone. Transportation is granted to those families that live outside of this 2 mile radius that live within the school zone. It is measured from your door to school, but sometimes there is water and that's for transportation to decide. If you live 1.9 miles away, no transportation. This will change for north of 64, west of 175 and east of 675, if that happens. Please email me with any questions.

7. **Information from "All District SAC" meeting** – Okay to table this until the next meeting, due to timing considerations and the PTO meeting? Yes.
8. **Announcements:** There have been requests from parents that any further information about rezoning be mailed to the homes versus being hand delivered. Many said their kids had read the letters and became concerned. Rumors started and they started feeling uncertain about their places at Gullett. Just a thought, if possible to include a sense of inclusion into the morning meetings, to address some of these concerns. Especially now that we know children will all be allowed to stay.
9. **Motion to adjourn the meeting:** Mrs. Hedrick, 2nd Mr. Pesola

**Meeting Adjourned!**