

LECS SAC Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2009, 6:00-8:05
School Library

Agenda:

Minutes
Director's report
Committee reports
Old Business
New Business
 School Improvement Survey Results & New Plan

Members Present: Ronnie DeNoia, Carol Dierksen, Greg Mellowe, Sharon Morell,
DeVonna Craner, John Mays, Jillian Friedman, and Carrin Hahn

Minutes Recorded By: Carrin Hahn

Sharon Morell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

The minutes from May were approved without any changes.

LECS Director's Report, written and reported by Ronnie DeNoia

Foundation:	96,325.52
Building:	Lawyer from Greenberg Trauig writing up the contract for the DBC.
FCAT Scores:	See below
Miscellaneous:	Scheduling for next year has begun 8 th grade promotion went well-thanks Sharon 5 th Grade step up went well-thanks Sharon 8 th grade take over tomorrow
Fundraising:	\$12,000

READING	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
State	71	74	71	66	67	54
District	69	73	72	62	64	51
LECS	94	90	83	94	96	97
OCPS Rank	1	6 (tied)	19	2	1	1
State Rank	7 (tied)	11 (tied)	18 (tied)	7 (tie)	4	2 (tied)
Percentage	-1%	1%	15%	-1%	-1%	-1%
# of OCPS Schools	129	129	129	45	45	45
MATH	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
State	78	75	62	55	60	66
District	73	72	61	51	58	63
LECS	*100	97	87	65	92	*100
OCPS Rank	1	1	6 (tied)	9	2	1
State Rank	1 (tied)	4 (tied)	14 (tied)	34 (tie)	8 (tied)	1 (tied)
Percentage	-1%	-1%	1%	20%	-1%	-1% top
# of OCPS Schools	129	129	129	45	45	45
SCIENCE			5 th Grade			8 th Grade
State			46			41
District			44			38
LECS			63			87
OCPS Rank			16 (tied)			1
State Rank			31 (tied)			5
Percentage			12%			-1%
# of OCPS Schools			129			45
WRITING						
State		85				90

District		84				88
LECS		97				100
OCPS Rank		3 (tie)				1 (tie)
State Rank						1 (tie)
Percentage		-1%				-1%
# of OCPS Schools		129				45

- * The only school in Orange County with 100% of the students passing/proficient.
- Writing proficiency score is 3.5
- Percentages are Orange County figures
- Science only given in grade 5 and 8; Writing only given in grade 4 and 8
- Only one level 1 reader in grades 3-8
- State totals: elementary schools 2052 and middle schools 1082

Committee Reports

Fundraising, reported by Ronnie DeNoia

- Ronnie said that the online auction raised \$12,000.
- She said that she learned many things in the process of doing the auction, and one of the things is that the end of May is too late to have the in-person silent auction. There are too many other dinners and other events going on at that time of year.
- Greg asked how the \$12,000 compares to other years, and Ronnie said it's in the ballpark. Since there are no expenses for venues or catering, the money will cover the arts program plus some.
- DeVonna said that Beth Glaser is interested in helping with the online auction next year.
- Greg asked about the location of the people who bought items. Ronnie said that there were a decent amount of people from outside the area. Another thing she learned is that she would need to factor in extra shipping expenses for some of the larger items. Luckily this year, the items that are going through the mail are just tickets and passes, so she will only need a stamp.

Technology Committee, reported by John Mays

- John had nothing to report.

Curriculum Committee, reported by Jillian Friedman and Greg Mellowe

- Jillian reported on the results from her e-mail question about the retention policy. She said only three teachers responded. One response was that there should be a letter flatly stating that the child is being retained. One person responded that he or she doesn't think that the action plan needs to be recreated at the second meeting with the parents unless the child's performance warrants it. Jillian didn't have the third response with her.
- Ronnie said she is fine with the action plan not being recreated at the second meeting. She thinks that the original one can just be updated, as the Cluster 3 teachers do.
- Greg asked a question, and Ronnie clarified that she needs to have some kind of notation on the list given to her that a student is getting the first retention letter at the

second round of retention letters. Jillian suggested some kind of grid as a way to keep track of any students added after the first round.

- Greg also reminded people that the due date for the second round of retentions will need to be given ahead of time so that there is time to figure out how that will affect the lottery positions.
- Ronnie conducts the meeting with the parents for the final retentions, and she will continue to do that.
- Ronnie said they are dealing with an issue now in which the parents are appealing the retention. One of the issues is that there is no concrete policy on what makes the final decision. Do four passes override one fail in terms of classes? Greg reminded everyone that there is nothing written about this because the teachers decided they wanted a more holistic view of the students. Sharon asked if it would be beneficial to have a “tally sheet” with reasons that the teachers can mark. Ronnie said that this would work in Cluster 3 because the teachers make decision as a team, but the Cluster 2 teachers make individual decisions. Jillian said that this issue is very close to having key benchmarks from each report card. There were some concerns about this a few years ago, as not everyone agreed that it was appropriate to have them for all subjects.
- Greg commented that the policy seems to lack protection for the teacher who thinks a retention is necessary.
- It was decided that Greg and Jillian will work on this issue again next year.

After School Committee, reported by Carol Dierksen

- Carol said that she found the e-mail that says that Mrs. Stuckey, the craft club teacher, only wants to teach on Tuesdays. She is willing to teach Cluster 2 and 3 students. Carol also told her that she cannot guarantee that former craft club members can join again.
- Ronnie said she has a new club. Mrs. Tamborello is going to do a Drama Club for K, 1, and 2.
- Ronnie asked Carol to firm up the schedule for which clubs are on which days.
- DeVonna said she has two suggestions for clubs: a cheerleading club by a group that teaches 4 to 18 year olds and a Boot Camp class taught by a personal trainer from the Downtown Y. She also had an idea about teams from Edgewater High School doing some of their community service hours by volunteering to teach LECS students as part of a club. DeVonna e-mailed someone at the school asking about the possibility, and she will let SAC members or Carol know when she finds out if the idea is possible. Of course, a staff member will need to supervise the teenagers.
- Greg asked about the procedures for signing up for a club. Carol said that she will have the sign up sheets at the picnic and at Meet and Greet. If more than the allotted number of students sign up, then everyone will go into a lottery for that club. The fencing teacher could have two days of clubs, one for veterans and one for novices. (Sharon added that the fencing teacher told her that some of the fencing students might be in a tournament at the end of June.)

Business Partners Committee, reported by DeVonna Craner

- DeVonna spoke about a program, called Rachel's Challenge, on Channel 9 News. Rachel was a victim at Columbine, and a month before she died, she wrote an essay about being kind to one's fellow man. Her parents created the program to try to promote kindness in memory of Rachel. Organizations volunteer and let the news station know what they are doing; sometimes the news crews will film the volunteer work and put clips on their website. There is some PR involved, and if LECS participated, the students would get credit for some of the volunteer things they do (and have always done). Jillian asked if the website would provide suggestions for other volunteer opportunities, and DeVonna said it would. She will bring more information later.
- DeVonna is also going to have lunch with Christine Shields, who works at the Chamber of Commerce. They will discuss other potential business partners in the area.

Old Business

- Carol asked if the high school was approved. Ronnie said it had already had been.

New Business

- DeVonna had the Mid-Term School Improvement Plan to present. She had the Mid Term Report from 2004-2009 (Mid Term refers to the fact that the surveys were given in the fall). She also had the new report for the 2009-2012 school years. The new report might have some glitches with the placement of the X's that tell the status of each item, but it might be that all of the X's start in the Planning column since this report is new and everything starts fresh. The surveys given at Portfolio Day were used to create the new report.
- The Mid-Term report is based on items from the survey that scored below 80% approval rating. A goal for reading always has to be on the plan. For this report, the goals for after-school activities and math were met. The goals for technology were kept on the new report because they only have a 72% approval rating. Sharon clarified that no goal were unmet but since the benchmark moves up, the goals might still be in progress.
- DeVonna said she cannot submit the new plan because all of the School Improvement Plan Committee (SIPC) members haven't yet approved it. Once it's approved, she can submit it to SAC electronically. Some of the new goals are for reading, technology, the building, and after school activities.
- DeVonna spent some time going over the survey questions and the results. She said that the SIPC member think that, judging from some of the responses from the parents, some of the questions need to be clarified. Some of the responses either didn't make sense or flatly stated that the parents didn't understand the question. SAC members would clarify the questions.
- Ronnie suggested that the six goal for the SIP be posted on the website, along with lists of what the school currently has that meets the goals. Sharon suggested that posters be put up declaring "Good News" items about the school, such as "Did you know the school has two SmartBoards?" There could also be a "Good News" section in the school newsletter.

- DeVonna made a motion that the School Improvement Plan Committee's Mid-Term Report for 2004-2009 be accepted. Greg seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Sharon also had new business. She said that in April a nominating committee should have been put together so that SAC members could vote in May. Since that didn't happen, she needs a nominating committee now. There was some discussion about the status of everyone's terms. Greg, Carol, and Jillian are both at the end of the 1st years of their two-year terms (it doesn't matter as much for Jillian since she is staff). DeVonna and John are at the end of their two-year terms. They both agreed to stay on if no one else would be interested in the positions. Ronnie is going to decide if she wants to leave the Fundraising Committee position. Ronnie said she would send out a half page flyer asking for volunteers to serve on SAC as the Committee Chairs for Business Partners and for Technology. The deadline is June 15, and people need to e-mail Carrin if they are interested. Sharon (President), Carol (Vice-President), and Carrin (Secretary) all agreed to keep their seats. (There was an e-mail vote on June 2 and 3 about this. Greg sent the following: The Nominating Committee moves the following slate of SAC officers for the 2009-10 school year:

Chair - Sharon Morell

Vice Chair - Carol Dierksen

Secretary - Carrin Hahn)

- Greg also had some new business. He presented the document he worked on about the description of SAC and its jobs. The idea is to have the information out to the parents by the fall, either by newsletter or in the packet of information that goes home at the beginning of the year. There was some discussion of things on the document, such as the fact that there are five active committees but several subcommittees that can be activated as needed (i.e., School Improvement Plan, Budget, and hiring). There was some discussion about how SAC doesn't create policy; the Board does that. Greg asked that people look over the document and send him any more editing things after people started reading it and offering suggestions. He will work on it, and it will be on the agenda to vote upon for the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2009, in the school library. It is the second Monday in September because there is no school because of Labor Day on September 7.