R.B. Hunt Elementary

October 3, 2017

SAC Minutes

A meeting of the R.B. Hunt Elementary School Advisory Council was held in the Media Center on October 3, 2017.

Beth Cleary called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

The following people were in attendance: Amanda Garman, Beth Cleary, Donna Aunchman Stephanie Nehemias, Lauren Leth, Elena Laguardia, Jen Stevenson, JoEllen Parkey, Lou Venney, Susie Gorick, Peter Morin, Jeanine Wihbey, Nicole Jubbia, Tommy Bledsoe, Susan Connor, Nancy Watson, Wanye King, Bonnie Proctor, Carl Soto, Jocelyn Soto, Lynn Silbery, Cielito Cromwell, Milo Davis, and Colette Cook

Elena Laguardia made a motion to approve the minutes. Peter Morin seconded that motion.

Beth Cleary welcomed everyone to the meeting; bring everyone’s attention to the agenda items. She shared that Andrew Hurley needed to reschedule, he will be coming in November.

1. Attendance Incentives:

Per last meeting, the team was to bring suggestions to the meeting for incentives for this year. Last year PTAO supplied a Kindle. Amanda Garman shared the attendance so far this year has been better. She shared that the earlier school start might be helping with that (which was a way to help with the new recess/P.E. requirements). No suggestions were made, so incentives tabled to next meeting.

2. SAC composition:

Amanda Garman shared that our new business partner for SAC with be Nicole from the Anastasia Branch Library system.

3. Sebastian Middle School (SMS) Presentation

Wayne King, principal of SMS, presented the SMS Overview. Sharing that all students from Hunt are traditionally zoned for Sebastian, and they would like to help with the transition from elementary to middle school. He share that Sebastian is in the process of becoming a STEAM academy. Over the years, they focused on making sure all their teachers were trained in project-based learning. The goal being to help bridge the division of reading/math/etc. So that when students struggle in one class they (hopefully) start seeing success because all classes have reading, math, etc. integrated.

Wayne King shared that all students in 6th grade are now being exposed to the STEAM program at Sebastian, but after 7th and 8th they will need to apply.

Nancy Watson, 6th grade teacher at Sebastian, then spoke about the curriculum piece. Sharing that all 6th graders are now receiving STEAM 101 curriculum, which integrates the 25 standards that are being used in grade 5 and 8 for the FCAT/FSA. Nancy Watson explained that CPalms through the FLDOE has digital resources, many of which are tutorials that can help students be better prepared for the STEAM program. She supplied directions on how to get into the 4th and 5th grade standards, explaining that all tutorials are interactive and make connections to Florida. At the middle school level, they are using them as review, and making them available on Schoology, all hyperlinked to parents and students.

Susan Connor, PTAO president/parent liaison, shared that the STEAM program is something to be excited about, that the classrooms are all new. That the energy of SMS is great, for example Nancy Watson is new this year, which they were able to hire because of the Title 1 school status. Growth mindset teaching is imbedded in all subject areas. They have been able to open up this training to parents and to the feeder schools. Susan Conner shared she would be happy to talk with any parents, or even give them a tour of the school, saying her job is to make middle school less scary for the parents.

Wayne King then added in addition to the STEAM program, Tuesday/Thursday’s after school they have Robotic’s club like Hunt. They are the only middle school with an orchestra. Oddessy of the Mind is an elective.

Jeannie Whibey shared that the transition has been wonderful. That SMS is organized and Schoology has been a great resource. Wayne King explained that Schoology is like the cyber red folder.

Wayne King explained the hope is that this year SMS will become a state certified STEAM school, it is possible it will be an academy as soon as next school year. They plan to have a open house for incoming parents late January.

Beth Cleary added that when they brought the 5th graders last year, it was amazing. The cheer team, band and chorus put on a great performance and the honor students were great tour guides.

JoEllen Parkey asked about the PTAO, which Susan Connor shared is getting better everyday. Maria Carlson, former Hunt parent, will be taking over next year. Wayne King added the amount of money that is being raised is also really helping with the STEAM program. Tommy Bledsoe also added the music position was a direct result of the parent and community members.

Wayne King finished his presentation by inviting everyone to the January 18th Harlem event.

Amanda Garman shared that we need more parents to fill out the accreditation survey, she requested that the parents in the room help by making sure they have done so themselves.

Elena LaGuardia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:49. Jo Ellen seconded the motion.

Beth Cleary adjourned the meeting at 3:50p.m.