

**WALTER C. YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) 2008-2009
4:00 PM
Wednesday February 11th 2009
TEAM ROOM – FRONT OFFICE
MNUTES**

I. Meeting call to order

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Attendance roster in file.

III. Approval of February Agenda

February SAC agenda was distributed to all members in attendance for review and approval. Motion was made by Mrs. Ludovici and seconded by Ms. Holness. Vote ensued, motion carried.

IV. Review and approval of January 13th SAC minutes

Minutes of the January 13 SAC meeting were distributed to all members in attendance for review and approval. Sect. 5 sentence is repeated. Motion was made by Ms. Bryan and seconded by Mrs. Ludovici. Vote ensued, motion carried.

V. SAC Chair Update (news, composition etc)/comments

SAC Remaining Meeting Dates for 2008-2009:

Feb. 11, March 10, April 21, May 12

Dr. Holness denoted the remaining SAC meetings for the 2008-2009 academic year. Should all months have a SAC meeting, the March meeting will be deleted due to the FCAT testing and a Knights Happening. Discussion ensued. Motion made, vote ensued. March 2009 meeting will not take place; the next meeting will take place in April

Dr. Holness stated that the W. C. Young school website is now updated with SAC information so that all parents can access the website.

V. Guest Speaker: School Board Member (District 2) Beverly Gallagher

Dr. Holness introduced Mrs. Beverly Gallagher, District 2 School Board Member. Mrs. Gallagher provided information to SAC members that she is currently working with the stimulus package currently up for a vote. She informed SAC of the various items included in this package. She also explained the various cuts that were made by the Senate which will affect the education of students. Discussed were various means by which the State of Florida is looking into making additional cuts. Various means to save funds in Broward County were discussed. For example, the text book adoption if delayed could save the county a lot of money.

Mrs. Gallagher also discussed some of the recommendations that both she and other members of the School Board are discussing to supplement and assist with the vast funds that are being cut. Also discussed that for example, was when the NRT testing was cancelled, it saved approximately \$35 million. Mrs. Gallagher also informed the members of SAC that there will

be several Town Hall meetings in the next couple of weeks at which the Board is looking for input from both parents and residents. Mrs. Parker asked when voting would take place to consider class size reduction freeze and Mrs. Gallagher stated that not at any time soon. Mrs. Hall asked if the DROP program would be dropped and Mrs. Gallagher stated that as of right now everything is frozen. Also being considered is the 4 day work week, even though it is not realistic. Mrs. Gallagher informed the members of SAC that for example, Davie Elementary is down 500 students and it is likely to close. In the future, the School District may use this building for one of their offices.

Mrs. Gallagher explained to the members of SAC that currently there are various Catholic Schools that will be closing as the Archdiocese is having difficulties funding them. She also told those in attendance that the City of Pembroke Pines now has mortgage payments on their Charter Schools. Members were also informed that there will be cuts to the middle school athletics and also the arts. There may also be difficulties in continuing funding of transportation to the Magnet Schools. Mrs. Gallagher provided the members of SAC with her personal information:

B.Gallagher@browardschools.com

Bevgallagher@aol.com (which is her private web address)

VI. Mr. Greenberg's update on Young Knight's Saturday Camp

Mr. Greenberg stated that we are up to week 4 of the Knight's Camp and students are really happy to be here. Volunteer students from Flanagan are also attending and providing assistance to our students. There are over 270 students currently enrolled. Students in attendance will be receiving a certificate of completion along with an ice-cream certificate, graciously provided by the school PTSA.

Mr. Greenberg stated that over 480 students were invited to attend the Knight's Camp.

IX. Reports from Academic Departments

Language Arts: Report was given by Mrs. Brunt. Sixth and Seventh grade students participated in a mock FCAT writes during the time that the Eighth grade students were taking the Florida Writes Test. Sixth grade is finishing poetry and celebrating Black History month with a variety of activities. The current novel being read by some of the students is "The Watson's Go To Birmingham," by Christopher Paul Curtis. Also persuasive writing is the focus of February as the Six Traits of Writing are being reviewed and incorporated.

Seventh grade is currently working on the elements of myth: sequencing and irony. They are also reading "Tangerine," by Edward Bloor and incorporating poetry and persuasive writing.

Eighth grade took the FCAT Writes test on February 11. Prior to the test, teachers continued their instruction in the writing process as per the Six Traits Writing Method. As stated in the School Improvement Plan (SIP), the teachers focused on Word Choice, Voice and Ideas, as well as engaging the students in specific persuasive writing techniques. The Eighth grade curriculum will now focus more on creative writing, poetry, and literature to include the required novels, "The Holocaust," and "Flowers for Algernon."

Mathematics: Mr. DeRosa reported for the department. The department has examined the BAT Math Schools Summary by Benchmark. Also the department has looked at the percent of students meeting criteria in each category and is focusing on the lowest scoring areas within each strand (by grade level). The Current plan is to develop FCAT practice designed to target the weak areas identified by the BAT results. This design will be accomplished during the Thursday Department Trainings "Higher Order Thinking" and implementation in the classroom. In addition, other resources are currently in place such as FCAT Saturday Camp, Homework Café, Peer Tutoring, Compass-Learning Odyssey, CCC Lab, FCAT Explorer, Focus, and FCAT Warm-ups.

Planning Math Night will be held on March 25, 2009. It will take place in conjunction with the school's Knight's Happening. Math and Science will be combined with a guest speaker and it will encourage parents to be more involved and more aware of requirements. Student work will be displayed and parents and students will learn of opportunities available to them, as well as careers in both math and Science.

Science: Mrs. Bernard-Mark reported that the students recently took the 3rd Benchmark Assessment test. She stated that several students in her class, in Mrs. Schiller's class, Ms. Lewis' class, Mrs. Alt's class, and Mrs. Madi's class are submitting their ECybermission Projects. She also stated that the Science Department will work with the Math Department at the Knight's Happening.

Reading: Ms. Villanueva reported for the department and informed the members of SAC that the department is re-enforcing the Benchmarks as well as providing direction words for students. Also, students are doing FCAT prep for the test to take place in March.

X. SAF Report/ Joint Meeting

SAF Chairperson: Mr. Freddy Merico was not in attendance; therefore, there was not a report provided.

XI. Unfinished Business/upcoming events/plan

Dr. Holness stated that at the April meeting he will have a questionnaire for the current members of SAC to complete who wish to continue to be members of SAC next year. Also, there will be a need to develop a Nominating Committee in the next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.