

**WALTER C. YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) 2008-2009
April 21st 2009
TEAM ROOM – FRONT OFFICE
Minutes**

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

Dr. Holness welcomed all members of SAC and all the guests to the SAC meeting and requested the school mission statement be read.

II. Roll Call

Attendance in file.

III. Approval of April Agenda

Agenda distributed to all members of SAC for their review.

Mrs. Ludovici motioned to accept the April SAC agenda, Ms. Hebron seconded. Vote ensued, motion carried.

IV. Review and approval of March 17th SAC minutes

Minutes of the March 17th SAC meeting distributed for member's review. Mrs. Brunt motioned to accept the March 17, 2009 SAC minutes, Mrs. Routenberg seconded. Vote ensued, motion carried.

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

SAC Remaining Meeting Dates for 2008-2009:

Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Dr. Holness stated that if any member of SAC is interested in becoming an officer of SAC for the academic year of 2009-2010, they should submit their name to the nominating committee. At the May 14, 2009 meeting a decision on next year's officers as well as a discussion of the SIP plan will take place.

V. Guest Speaker: South Area Director Mrs. Valerie Wanza

Dr. Holness introduced Mrs. Valerie Wanza, So. Area Director. Mrs. Wanza was the principal at Lanier James. During her tenure, the school achieved gains in both learning and graduation. Suspensions decreased as well as student referrals. She has received numerous recognitions and awards and is a participant in many well known organizations such as Women of Tomorrow and NABSE. She became the So. Area Director and has contributed significantly to the overall success of the schools in the So. Area. Mrs. Wanza opened the floor to questions from members of SAC. She stated that there are no schools scheduled to close in Broward County. It was asked by Mrs. Brunt if Cooper City would continue to have

the block of the 7 classroom day. Mrs. Wanza stated that for this action to take place, the faculty would have to vote and have a 66 2/3% vote from the faculty.

Dr. Holness asked about the stimulus funds being used for teacher retention. Mrs. Wanza stated that there are various parts i.e. for ESE, computers, and there is a fund for teacher retention. Mr. DeRosa asked if the 7 periods in high school would cost more or less. Mrs. Wanza stated it would cost less and that there is no empirical research that states that this block works better than the 7 period day. On the other side, if it costs less, it will also require fewer teachers.

Mrs. Bernard-Mark asked about the DROP program and the status of teachers that are in the program. She stated that the direction that has been given is that if a teacher is in year 1-4, he/she is ok. If you are in 5-7 in a differentiated teaching school, you should be ok. Otherwise there is a process to follow for all DROP teachers. Mrs. Bernard-Mark also asked if a student may be granted a waiver to attend a different school. She stated that she always mentions to parents wanting a re-assignment to apply; however, the school has to meet a level of service by number of seats available and prove a hardship. Mrs. Hall stated that if there is a parent that has a student at Pines, and a student at WC Young, the second student may transfer to Pines as it is a middle school.

Mr. DeRosa spoke about scheduling classes for high school, especially in the Math classes when a teacher recommends a different type of Math than the high school recommends and overrides the teacher recommendation. Mrs. Wanza stated that the high school letter grade will change effective the 2010 academic year. The high schools will have to show progress in advanced placement progress from one level to another. If by test score, they demonstrate the ability, they will be properly placed. Next year, Algebra 1 will be field tested and the following year Geometry will be field tested.

Mrs. Hall asked if students will have to pass the FCAT to be promoted this year. Mrs. Wanza stated that whatever is in place today, will stand for this year's promotion. Mrs. Bernard-Mark asked about vertical team meeting. Mrs. Wanza stated it would be brought up by her at another meeting.

VII. Budget Requests – Reading Department: Mrs. Sekowski

Mrs. Andriella presented the request from the Reading Department. A request is being made for funds to support the Reading Program. Teachers are currently concentrating on novel studies to enhance learned skills.

Request No. 1 is made for Word Wisdom books that are the core for developing vocabulary skills. Vocabulary is Cluster 1 of the 4 FCAT clusters taught. This is one of the weakest clusters for W. C. Young. A request is being made in the amount of \$3,000 for the purchase of these books. Ms. Sugg asked if there was going to be a set for each classroom teacher. There is one set for each teacher in the budget request. Motion was made by Mrs. Brian, seconded by Ms. Haniff. Discussion, vote ensued, motion carried.

Request No. 2 is for Timed Reading books. The books currently in the department are 10 years old. The purpose of these books is to assist students in their silent reading skill which is an academic need. The cost of this request is \$1,100. Discussion ensued. The request has been made for a set for each teacher. Mr. McNally stated that he was not sure if the request

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should be granted depending on whether there will be other requests for funding. Ms. Sugg stated that she felt Reading was an important subject and that these materials are needed. Ms. Sugg motioned to accept, Ms. Hebron seconded. It was requested that the Reading Department provide additional information, such as numbers to be purchased with this amount. It was also stated that a maximum of \$1,100 be provided to fund the Timed Reading books. Discussion, vote ensued, motion carried.

Request No. 3 is for the purchase of several class sets of novels. The teachers use them as application for all the FCAT strategies taught to the students. The novel collection at W. C. Young needs to be replaced. We also need to purchase additional titles. The cost of a class set of novels is \$360 per set. The request is for 5 sets of novels at a total cost of \$1,800. Mrs. Bernard-Mark asked if the Reading Department could just purchase 2 sets. Mrs. DeCarlo asked if we could send a list home with students for parents to review. Mrs. Bryan asked if as a group everyone was reading the same novel in the room. She also asked if we could get parents to donate the books. Mrs. Bryan asked why were teachers not allowed to ask parents for donations. It was stated that this is a District Policy. Ms. Sugg stated that to get books donated, which might be of a different print, may not be a good idea as the pages may not match. She also stated the importance of students being able to read well. Mr. Greenberg asked if there was a way of requesting our business partners to donate the funds to cover the class sets. Mrs. Bryan stated she would speak with PTSA. A motion was made to table this request.

VIII. Budget Request – Science Department: Mrs. Bernard-Mark

Mrs. Bernard-Mark requested \$3,894 to pay for PASCO General Bundle Science Probeware. This is a lab activity that will enrich the Science students. It includes the lab manuals, intermediate Probewares, to include 5, and the software. It was asked if the whole department would benefit from the use of this. Mrs. Bryan motioned, Mrs. Haniff seconded. Discussion ensued, vote taken, motion carried.

IX. Mr. Greenberg’s Comments on 8th Grade Remediation/Recovery Camp

Mr. Greenberg stated that the first Recovery Camp took place this past Saturday. One hundred and fifty-two 8th grade students did not meet criteria for promotion. All of these students received notice of this program and 81 students responded. The first Saturday class had 71 students in attendance. Students will work on those areas that need to be recovered by quarter. A 70% passing grade will be needed by each student to pass/recover his/her grades.

X. Reports from Academic Departments

Language Arts: The Language Arts Department is hosting a Literary Fair Night on Wednesday, May 6th, from 6-8 p.m. in the Media Center. Student work from each teacher and grade will be displayed to include projects, poetry and writing samples from throughout the year. Eighth grade Language Arts teachers are in the process of completing the registration for the students being promoted to high school next year. Also, students are reading the required novel “Nothing but the Truth” and getting started on covering the Holocaust and the “Diary of Anne Frank.” Sixth and Seventh Grade Language Arts teachers are in the process of completing the class selection cards with their students for the next school year. The novel “Tangerine” was just finished in 7th grade and persuasive and expository writing is continued to be reviewed. Sixth Grade teachers are reading the required

novel, "The Watsons Go to Birmingham." as well as focusing on figurative language, dialects, and author's purpose and reviewing for the end of the year writing assessment.

Mathematics: Mr. DeRosa stated that the Math Department will continue to work on the necessary skills to have the 8th grade students ready for high school and pass the 8th grade.

Science: Mrs. Bernard-Mark stated that the 10 W.C. Young students that entered the eCybermission competition are individual recipients of a \$2,000 EE Savings Bond and a certificate. Over the past 3 years, students at W. C. Young have won over \$75,000 US EE saving bonds thanks to their eCybermission projects. Mrs. Bernard-Mark also stated that Science students recently took the 4th Mini Benchmark Assessment Test. Also some teachers are currently taking the updated virtual training for Family Life, Human Sexuality / HIV/AIDS. All the Science teachers will teach the unit in May – June. Students participating in this unit must have a signed permission letter by their parents.

Reading: No report given.

XI. Unfinished Business/upcoming events/plan

Create Dress Code Proposal(s): Folders were distributed with examples from other schools, as well as the current W. C. Young dress code. Dr. Holness asked members of SAC to please read through the proposals and make recommendations. SAC will then present a proposal to parents. A 2/3 vote from parents will be required to have a proposal pass. Discussion ensued regarding the wearing of the jeans by students. Mrs. Hall discussed the wearing of spandex and blue jeans. W. C. Young will also be looking at the Glades Middle School dress code. Dr. Holness asked if 2-3 members of SAC would be willing to review the information provided and then create and present a detailed description of clothing that students can wear at W. C. Young. Dr. Holness asked if we could just include denim and a full description of the type of jeans they could wear. Spandex, overly tight pants, form fitting, tight pants, too small and no large pockets should be included to describe the jeans that will be permitted. Also, jeans must be worn and secured at the waist. It was stated by Ms. Haniff that students need to adhere to the dress code and be informed of the consequences. Motion was made by Mrs. Bryan and seconded by Mrs. Hebron. Vote ensued, 2 nays, Mrs. Bernard-Mark and Mrs. Haniff, 11 votes for the changes.

XII. Closing Remarks

Dr. Holness thanked every member of SAC for their hard work during the 2008-2009 Academic school year.

SAF BUSINESS: SAF report immediately following SAC meeting
SAF Chairperson: Mr. Freddy Merico