

**Paxon School for Advanced Studies  
School Advisory Council  
January 13, 2009 Minutes  
Media Center**

**Present:** John Castillo, Alison Cruess, Carol Daniels, Rosanne Ennis, Angela Gates, Chris Haines, Kevin Johns, Patrick Kendrick, Tom Lobello, Kathy Loggie, Robert Pelaia, Steven Smith, Kim Wiggins, and Janis Wood

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by SAC President Tom Lobello.

**Minutes:** The November 18, 2008 minutes were presented and approved with no changes noted.

**New Business**

A sign in sheet was distributed to collect attendance.

**Principal's Report**

**Mrs. Daniels provided the following update:**

- Welcomed everyone and wished them a New Year.
- There were some deaths of family members of staff members. We are a team and support each other.
- New Hires were identified:
  - Katherine Loggie – New Computer Applications teacher, has AP experience
  - Mr. Sang (chemistry) resigned – Replacement has been hired – waiting on HR clearance
  - New Guidance Counselor – Ms. Johnson resigned to seek other career opportunities
  - New Social Studies teacher – Brings IB and AP experience – relocating from New York
  - Mrs. Daniels is pleased with the experience of the new teachers and expects them to be on board within the next few weeks.
- Magnet Mania was this past Saturday – very successful – many parents indicated Paxon was their number one choice – very encouraging.
- Budget challenges:
  - We have been informed by the superintendent that the deficit may be high as \$139 million and they have to make cuts
  - We have to be a vigilant and assertive advocates for our school

- Last year we borrowed against future AP/IB dollars to fund personnel positions. Each student is worth \$3,085. Last year the State Legislature reduced AP funding from 2.4 to 1.6.
  - We cannot take any more hits; there is no fat in our budget. All of our positions are related to program requirements because we are an academic magnet.
  - We only have one Para and three office assistants, all of the support staff do more than one task, do a lot of cross training since most of the budget is tied up in teacher salaries
  - All of this explains why we must again borrow against future AP/IB dollars. She will need our support on this in the event the district decided to balance the budget on the backs of young people. She is very concerned about that.
  - Magnet transportation is huge issue – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students do not drive. If magnet transportation is eliminated will destroy the program
- Semester Exam make-ups are tomorrow
  - There will be a site visit by the Superintendent next Wednesday from 8:00 am – 10:45 am. He will be visiting each high school in Duval County to observe classes and speak with students and teachers.
  - There will be Drama Production next Friday & Saturday
  - Magnet Tours begin on January 14
  - District Magnet Open House will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>
  - FACT review for Writes on January 31
  - Feb 10 will be FCAT Writes for 10<sup>th</sup> graders
  - FCAT Reading, Science in March
  - AP & IB exams begin May 4
  - Graduation is June 5 at 5 pm at the arena
  - Prom is April 18; Grad night is the 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Pelaia stated he has not seen transportation as an agenda item. They are including disclaimers on the magnet materials about bussing. Mrs. Daniels said it is important that they see our external stakeholders. We have two new board members and they need to know your position. Mr. Labello informed the committee the next ACE transportation meeting is the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Daniels said the other consideration is scheduling and asked Mrs. Wiggins to address this for the committee. Ms. Kimberly Wiggins explained we might be on a A/B block with a “skinny”, which means students (tentatively) will have four long (90 minutes) periods each day and one short (45 minutes) class that meet every day for a total of five periods per day (or 7 credits for the year). The skinny can be anywhere in the day. The skinny is one credit. They will determine which classes are more conducive to be the skinny.

Chris Haines asked how a four day school week that was being considered would affect the new block schedule and the budget. Mrs. Daniels explained that it was just a consideration. It has not come up at the most recent Principal's meeting.

Mr. Costello asked if the school board was considering different starting times. Mrs. Daniels answered that it been talked about and has changed several times. She is only sharing items that she believes are definite – the contingency planning has been changing from meeting to meeting.

Mr. Pelaia asked if transportation was an issue at Magnet Mania from the parents. Mrs. Daniels said just two questions were asked.

Mr. Pelaia asked how much we would save if we got rid of FCAT. Mrs. Daniels replied – a lot – the State has already eliminated the summer administration. She said there will be no more Norm Reference Tests (NRT). Mrs. Janis Wood stated that the NRT was a great way for parents to compare their students' progress. Mrs. Daniels explained the Criteria Reference tests are the FCAT. She reminded us to remain vigilant on what makes this magnet program tick. We have to monitor transportation or anything that could impact our population

Mrs. Wiggins reported there was a new grade and attendance program for the county. Paxon is first to test it with plans to have the county using it next year. Parents will be able to see attendance and grades for their children. There will be no more paper forms (cost savings) and everything will be online eventually.

Mrs. Daniels informed the committee that she may need our help if the district pulls our supply money. Kevin Johns asked if we can create an emergency pantry. Mrs. Daniels said she has paper stored and they may do an emergency order soon.

Mrs. Wiggins explained the State has a new mandate called "Florida Ready to Work". It is FACT-based and also lines up with Sunshine Standards. It is a self-paced computer program that measures reading and math. It determines at what level the student is ready to go into the work force. The school earns \$15 per each successful student. The principal determines how the money is spent. Paxon is testing 420 students at the end of next week. There are three separate tests – so it is \$45 for each student potentially. A certificate goes on their diploma. Steven Smith asked about putting it online. Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Wiggins both said yes. Mrs. Daniels said she would like to recognize A&P students and the Ready to Work program could fund this.

### **Financial Report:**

Mr. Smith passed out the SACs Funds/Funding Requests handout. Even though we were able to take care of everyone, the math department asked for more calculators if we have funds for them.

## **Old Business**

Mr. Labello discussed there have been some meetings in response to ACE Academic programs. Mr. Smith has given advice on how to approach the legislature and others. Mrs. Daniels is right - we should remain vigilant. Next will come the Academic Program meetings in February to discuss putting programs in each quadrant. Mr. Smith said if they do the right thing we need to thank them.

Rosanne Ennis asked what happened to make Stanton and Paxon drop in national rankings. Mrs. Daniels explained based on the number of students enrolled in classes, but also last year the students fell in rankings due to college placement – their SAT and ACT scores. Mrs. Daniels explained that is why we added Latin as a requirement for pre-IB students, increased our monitoring of students and customized instructional delivery as it relates to reading and writing. The universities understand very well what is going on with the rankings whereas the general public does not always. Six National Merit Scholars semi-finalists will be recognized at School Board Meeting (most since 2000). Stanton has 15, she believes.

Mr. Johns asked if we have driven a stake in the career track monstrosity. Mrs. Daniels answered with we can't get them to understand that our mission is to prepare students for admission to the college of their choice.

Mr. Pelaia said there was no constituency to report back to and we have many months left to meet so what is next for this committee? Mrs. Daniels said the School Improvement Plan will most likely be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Costello asked about a scheduling conflict between a new handpicked committee formed by the students and with National Honor Society meetings. Mrs. Daniels said we are working on that out offline and it should not be a problem. Mrs. Daniels explained the new committee - the Student Leadership Committee is comprised of student leaders. It provides greater student visibility and voice – it meets with the Principal and is a diverse group. All grades are represented.

The next Paxon SAC meeting will be Tuesday, February 10 at 4:00 pm. in the Media Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.