

**Paxon School for Advanced Studies
School Advisory Council
March 10, 2009 Minutes
Media Center**

Present: Alison Cruess, Carol Daniels, Roger Deary, Erin Duchanois, Angela Gates, Doree Giles, Kevin Johns, Patricia Kendrick, Nicholas Kaloudis, Tom Lobello, Steven Smith, Kim Wiggins, and Janis Wood

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by SAC President Tom Lobello. He announced that we have a quorum present. The February minutes were presented and approved with spelling changes to two members' names.

Principal's Update:

Mrs. Carol Daniels reported:

- The Miss Paxon Pageant was delightful, well-organized and everyone did a beautiful job with their collective and individual contributions.
- The National Honor Society induction was held last Thursday. Ninety eight students were inducted. National Merit Finalists and Semi-finalists were recognized. It was very well attended.
- We have moved forward with IB. Magnet applications were due on February 27. We should know something in April in terms of the individuals who will be admitted to Paxon.
- We are in the process of tabulating open seats for 9th and 10th grade. Our goal is to have 1,600 students, so we want to start with 1,625 in August in order to have a cushion since we lose approximately 100 students over the year – these are the AP, IB, and Opportunity students combined.
- Budget
 - Each teacher with salary and benefits costs \$66, 193. ROTC, Assistant principal and principal are higher.
 - ESE part time teacher shared with Darnell Cookman – we are trying to lengthen the contract period – looking at 2.5 days rather than 2 days.
 - There is no fat in the budget in terms of personnel. If we cut two guidance clerks, office assistants, CRT Operator, Bookkeeper, Principal's secretary, two other clerks, and the office assistant in the copy room it would not make a dent in the budget. We do not have as many support personnel as other schools.
 - The budget has been whittled down from \$700,000 to \$532,210 (as of March 10) – which mean the loss of eight teacher positions.
 - Our teaching positions are driven by AP & IB program requirements. For example, art cannot be cut because we have AP and IB art. Paxon cannot cut electives because in essence, we would be eliminating a program.
 - There are also unfunded mandates (that cannot be cut) such as declared major areas of interest and a career academy.
 - Our standards coach will be full time in her subject area (Earth Space Science).

- We are trying to figure out a way to keep some of our most talented teachers – the district has stated they will not authorize any DROP extensions.
- We are coming up on five-year IB review – cannot have untrained teachers. IB training is expensive. New hires have to comply with IB five-year review.
- Trying to build for the future while addressing the budget crisis.
- The SAC should keep the heat on – contact the board members and state legislators. The budget should not be balanced on the backs of students.
- Received an email from budget director that impact from Stimulus Package is not yet known.
- We have cut supplies to a bare minimum
- The Base Student Allocation (BSA) has declined from \$3,085 to a little more than 2,000.

Mr. Nicholas Kaloudis, Paxon student, said feedback he received from the magnet tours indicates the students love the “fun” side of it. We are respected in the community, not only for being an academic powerhouse, for also being the “fun” magnet school.

Mr. Steven Smith reported we have two financial requests to consider. One is a support classroom instruction DVD for the Media Center at a cost of \$400 and the other is the purchase of fiction and non-fiction books for the Media Center at a cost of \$600. Mr. Smith pointed out that we can only fund one as we have approximately \$532 remaining. He also reminded the committee that we have been asked to fund additional graphing calculators if possible. We could fund one or the other or a partial request for each.

Mr. Kevin Johns made a motion to fund the Media Center with \$500. Ms. Patricia Kendrick seconded the motion.

There was discussion we could see where we were next month and consider directing any remaining money towards calculators.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Kaloudis reported the Student Leadership Committee (SLC) is planning a “Green Day” that focuses on conservation of resources. They are setting up a recycling program.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

The next Paxon SAC meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 at 4:00 pm. in the Media Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm