

**Paxon School for Advanced Studies  
School Advisory Council  
September 8, 2009 Minutes  
Media Center**

**Present:** Elizabeth Allen, Shelly Casey, Alison Cruess, Africia Davis, Kimberly Dull, Angel Gates, Kevin Johns, Rhonda Johns, Patricia Kendrick, Tom Labello, Connie Rawson, Steven Smith, Russ Snyder, Royce Turner, Vincent Viscariello, Anne Ward, Willie Walker, and Donna Whittaker

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by SAC President Tom Lobello. He explained that the committee could not do anything official today including approving the May 12, 2009 minutes. Mr. Labello introduced the committee to Paxon's new principal, Mr. Royce Turner.

**Principal's Update:**

Mr. Turner reported:

- The current enrollment is at 1,554. Paxon was budgeted for 1,491 students. If enrollment remains up, we should receive additional money.
- There is one vacancy in chemistry. A candidate is currently being cleared to join the Paxon staff.
- The School Improvement Plan template has changed again this year. It is the most involved version yet. It will be emailed to the SAC.
- The focus for the year in addition to "Preparing Students for the Future, not our past", is encouraging the students to do things differently, pushing without limits, and thinking outside the box.
- Plant Updates & Concerns: Paxon had three new sidewalks and a new gate installed. During rainy weather, there is not enough room in the cafeteria and gutters are needed and there is a tripping hazard in front of the tank.
- Scheduling has been completed.
- "On Course", the online grading and attendance software will go live after the first 9-weeks.

Mr. Turner was asked how many new Opportunity Students enrolled at Paxon this year. He said there were approximately 64 students throughout all of the grades. There are now approximately 120 Opportunity Students in total at Paxon.

Mr. Turner was asked of the outcome of last year's AP scores and Mr. Turner provided a summary handout of all of the district's high schools scores. Paxon increased from 37% passing rate (score of 3 or more) in 2008 to 38% passing rate in 2009. Mr. Turner said he would like to rates increase to the mid-40 percent.

**Financial Report**

Steven Smith reported most of our money from last year has been spent, as was our goal. We had \$6,900 last year and will probably receive more this year due to the increase in enrollment.

**New Business:**

It was announced that SAC can have 20 members and members can only miss two meetings per year.

Mrs. Allen requested 1) AP Review books for the calculus classes for a total of \$915, which did not include shipping, and 2) Graphing calculators for approximately \$1,000. She estimated the total costs of her request was \$2,100.

It was noted that a decision could not be made today on this request, but the request would be considered when the 09/10 SAC committee was voted in on September 21.

Ms. Kendrick suggested that Paxon have seniors donate their graphing calculator since they are not typically used in college.

Mr. Labello explained the process for officer nominations. Nominations were taken for the floor for President, Vice President/Financial Officer, and Secretary. The following members were elected:

**President – Kevin Johns**

**Vice President/Financial Officer – Steven Smith**

**Secretary – Alison Cruess**

The meeting time for SAC was discussed. There had been email discussion of changing the meeting time to accommodate more members. Mr. Turner said he was agreeable to meet at a time that was convenient for the parents and he would get teachers to come late if necessary. It was mentioned that parking in the morning could be an issue.

The preferences of the SAC members were noted as follows:

Opposed mornings: 6 members

Opposed evenings: 6 members

Opposed current time (4 pm): 2 members (one in absentee)

Based on this information, it was decided that SAC will continue to meet at 4 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Mr. Turner said he will ask the SGA President to be the student member of SAC.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Labello for his excellent job as the 09/09 SAC President. The members applauded Mr. Labello.

Open House will be on September 21. The PTA meeting will start at 6:30 and Open House will begin at 7:00.

**Old Business:**

None

**The next Paxon SAC meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 4:00 pm. in the Media Center.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm