

**Minutes of the  
Paxon School for Advanced Studies  
School Advisory Council  
December 14, 2010**

**Present:** Kevin Johns, Steven Smith, Kimberly Dull, Brad McLeland (filling in for Principal Royce Turner), Erin DuChanois, Babette Kissam, Don Viscariello, Erin DuChanois, Willie Walker

**Absent:** Donna Whittaker, Michelle Banks, Kimberly Price, Alison Cruess, Robin Dickenson, LaShanda Allen, Shelly Casey, Africia Davis, Rhonda Grant, Robin Lang, Tom Lobello, Connie Rawson, Anne Ward, Prin. Royce Turner

Call to Order and review of minutes -

Chairman Steven Smith called the meeting to order at 4:30pm. Chairman Smith announced that approval of the meeting minutes for November will be moved to January's agenda due to the lack of a quorum.

Principal's Report -

Dr. McLeland provided the Principal's Update in the absence of Principal Turner. Dr. McLeland reports as follows:

- PSAS rankings are moving closer to that of Stanton's ranking.
- Paxon has a dual enrollment consisting of approximately 370 seniors and approximately of 275 juniors.
- Students can get a book reimbursement of up to \$300 if a "C" or greater grade is achieved when taking online courses
- 98% of PSAS students are achieving a 3 or greater on the Reading College Readiness evaluations
- 99% of PSAS students are achieving a 3 or greater on the Math College Readiness evaluations
- 100% of PSAS junior students have signed up for the PSAT

Regarding Budget Dr. McLeland reports the following:

- Preplanning of the class schedule for 2011-2012 is underway
- There is a possibility of hiring one - two additional staff. Mr. Turner is interviewing for the Journalism position to be filled hopefully by the first quarter of next year.
- Paxon is currently the only school in compliance with the 25 student class size constitutional amendment in DCPS.
- The majority of classes that are negatively impacted are electives. Seniors will get first choice due to graduation needs. Lower classes are held to stricter rules due to space constraints. Therefore, they may need to utilize the Florida Virtual School to "catch up".

Dr. McLeland also reports the following regarding general news:

- Students should receive their class schedule for next year in early May.
- Students struggling should seek help first from their teacher. They need to just “talk to them”. Our teachers are very approachable to the students.
- Be advised that with Florida Virtual School there may be a long wait to enroll in some classes and those grades will affect GPA. Also, there are no online Honors courses.
- Paxon SAS gained 100 more “opportunity” students enrolled in 2010-2011 school year.

Open Discussion and Q and A -

Parent Question: How many AP courses are required for PSAS graduation?

Dr. McLeland’s Answer: There are (9) courses available.

Parent Question: What about grade recovery?

Dr. McLeland’s Answer: Grade recovery is not designed for the kid who didn’t do anything. Generally, they must have at least a 67% grade and then they can still only bring it up to a “C”.

Parent Question: Is the county lowering the number of AP/IB courses?

Mr. Viscariello’s Answer: The graduating class of 2013 students will need (9) AP courses. All previous classes are only being required to take (6) for the AP program.

Parent Question: Is there afterschool help for Calculus?

Dr. McLeland’s Answer: There is currently an IB Calculus tutoring session that is open to any student that needs help in calculus. Otherwise, there many resources available to get help including outside tutoring if that is what is needed. Students should be encouraged to speak up about needing help even if it is just asking a fellow student for help.

Financial update -

Vice Chair Kimberly Dull reports there is no change is funds status.

New Business -

Chair Steven Smith reports that with the changes in enrollment, Paxon SAS is no longer in the same athletic class as Stanton. Paxon is still a 6A school but Stanton is now an 8A school.

Commencement -

Announcement that next Paxon SAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 4:30pm in the Media Room.

Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Steven Smith at approximately 5:35.