

**Minutes of the
Paxon School for Advanced Studies
School Advisory Council
October 12, 2010**

Present: Alison Cruess, Robin Dickenson, Kevin Johns, Kimberly Price, Steven Smith, Royce Turner, Don Viscariello, Donna Whittaker, Michelle Banks, Erin DuChanois, Willie Walker

Absent: LaShanda Allen, Shelly Casey, Africia Davis, Kimberly Dull, Rhonda Grant, Robin Lang, Tom Lobello, Connie Rawson, Anne Ward

Chairman Steven Smith called the meeting to order at 4:30pm. Chairman Smith relayed to the committee his attendance at the recent magnet meeting. He stated that the overall tenor was somewhat cautionary - that many principals perceived a lack of support for magnet schools from "downtown". Principal Turner added that it is believed that some magnet schools received preferential treatment i.e., 60" televisions in gyms, while other magnet schools were not afforded these luxuries and neighborhood schools are being hurt by overcrowding. Principal Turner continued by stating the Magnet Office has no resources to provide extra amenities to magnet schools due to the district budget cuts and capital funds grants are no longer available.

The minutes of the meeting held on September 14 were presented for discussion. After discussion, and upon a motion made by Michelle Banks, seconded by Kevin Jones and carried, the minutes of the September 14 SAC meeting were approved as presented.

Mr. Turner provided the Principal's Update reporting that Paxon enrollment is currently at 1,500 students for funding purposes but are in the process of withdrawing a few struggling students. One faculty position remains open for a Journalism/Speech teacher with interviews ongoing.

Mr. Turner stated two additional benches for student seating were installed in the courtyard area which will help with lunch time seating and student safety. In response to the request by Kimberly Dull, Mr. Turner stated he had checked on last year's approved SAC request for Mr. Maynard, who had been working with the bookkeeper to complete the proper paperwork, and the approved items should be on the way. Paxon held a Pep Rally recently and included a contest to see which class would win the Spirit Stick (used a noise meter purchased through SAC funds); next Pep Rally is scheduled for November 5.

Continuing with the Principal's Report, Mr. Turner stated Paxon should know the amount of SAI funds during the week of October 18, which will be used for support of instruction, safe room, and FCAT prep materials. Mr. Turner reported that PSAT exams for freshmen, sophomores and juniors would be soon and that the annual senior breakfast would be held on October 13. Mr. Turner reminded the committee members that FCAT exams are being phased out by content areas to be replaced by end of course exams and he would report on new grading system at the next SAC meeting.

Mr. Turner reported that the SAC's very own teacher representative, Mr. Dom Viscariello, was awarded Teacher of the Year.

Principal Turner reported that the School Improvement Plan is in progress with the first draft being submitted to the State by 11/1/10. Mr. Turner reported that Paxon student reading levels are currently in the lowest quartile and the school has begun to work on comprehension techniques which will help increase these scores. Principal Turner wants SAC to review the community engagement piece of the Plan to determine ways to better engage parents and businesses.

Mr. Turner reported that Coca Cola is the vendor for the district as of October 1 and will provide transportation to all athletic events and officials at all games. With this change in vendors, Paxon is now allowed to obtain individual advertisers for each of the current four. A discussion was held regarding advertising fees that should be charged for adding logos on the scoreboard and if any member of SAC knew or worked for an organization that could be approached to request funding the scoreboards. Mr. Kevin Johns stated he would inquire with Bank of America on the school's behalf.

Chairman Smith reminded the committee members to review the School Improvement Plan by the next meeting, which will be held at Paxon Media Center at 4:30pm on Tuesday, November 9, 2010.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.