

# BAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SAC Minutes - 9-24-18.

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## Attendance:

SAC Members: Nicole Gil, Sara Reese, Mary Bess Wilson, Rhea Goff, Meredith Spence, Ana Tomblin  
Attendees from Community: 1 parent

## Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bay Elementary School Advisory Council was held in the Cafeteria on 9-24-18. Chair Meredith Spence called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. SIP Chair Ana Tomblin will record minutes for this meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions of SAC Members followed by the opportunity for public comments was provided. No public comments were made.

## Minutes:

Because this was the first official meeting following Manufacturing Day to create and finalize the 2018-19 School Improvement Plan, no minutes were to be approved.

## New Business:

### 1.1 Approve Agenda

Rhea Goff motions, Nicole Gil seconds

Agenda Approved

### 1.2 Announcements:

Spence: Greg Tang, who is well known in the world for his math books and strategies, from California, worked with all students and all students were engaged. There was a parent night in the evening, without bells and whistles, just Greg Tang and math stations. Watched the parent engagement but by the end the parents were just as engaged as the kids, working on problems with the kids. Asked Sara & Rhea's opinion of the night.

Sara: the kids were so excited, the 1st & 3rd grades didn't need help with the games.

Rhea: also enjoyed the games.

Spence: Last year the Boosters purchased Tang math games which are available to all grades.

Mary Bess & Nicole agreed the night was great and that many kids taught the parents.

Spence: Reading night was moved ahead in the calendar in order to provide information on school scores (moving from an A school to a C school), looking at the lowest 25 but those students were high performers. Parents were able to ask questions and have conversations. We will go over the data later in the meeting.

## Any other announcements from the group?

Spence: We want to recognize Nicole Gil for joining the SAC team (we lost Brittney Coleman who resigned), Nicole works with our ELL students.

### 2.2. School Improvement Plan Update

Spence: The school board approved our SIP September 4th. We will update the members binders but it is also on the school website including all data that is in the plan. It is there in order to share with others. Remember that the SIP plan is fluid, if we see a need based on data, we can adjust as needed. If you have questions, let me know so that we can include other teachers and chairs of committees to the next SAC, to go into more detail.

### 2.3 Data

Spence: Current data based on our goal from the SIP (handout). In yellow are the goals. For ESE there is a 78% increase in students since 2016-17. For ELL there is a 166% increase since 2016-17. We have had an overall growth in enrollment of 69% and the demographics have changed. Look at the reading data in blue, which is the ending data. You can see the % of students on or above grade level. At the bottom of the chart is our current 2018 data showing

the percent on or above grade level. K 65%, 1st 62%, 2nd 68%, 3rd 80%, 4th 84%. We have high performing students.

Question from Sara Reese: Is the data from STAR or FSA?

Spence: All data comes from STAR to compare across grade levels. Will show data at the next meeting so we can compare. Overall 72% is on or above grade level. Growth is the kicker. Spence: The next page of data is the writing subtest. We were aware and Walton County knows that writing is key. We have new writing resources and common writing instruction. Our average score was 32.5%, an F. We have a lot of work to do but we will show growth and improvement. Will be focusing on writing. If you want to know more we can ask Nancy Rentz, Tonya Tidwell, or Cathy Hackney. Their focus will be on writing and put writing into their reading comprehension. On the FSA students read 2 passages, determine their opinion, for example 2 different writings on chocolate in school, what is your opinion with evidence from the text. Text based evidence of why their opinion is their opinion.

Spence: Any questions on writing?

Mary Bess Wilson states that the focus on grammar this year is helping with 4th grade. She did not see that in the past with her older students.

Spence: Last page of data is the math scores and science. For math, the overall 74% is on or above grade level from last year. Our beginning data shows 81.5% on or above grade level in 2018. Science scores are not measured by the state until 5th grade. It is taught in all grades but tested in 5th. There is a focus on science time, so science is not cut, but purposefully taught.

Next year at Dune Lakes we will absorb 5th grade. It is important to look at science, look at the data and goals for the 19-20 school year. Our goal is 68.5%, we could raise it later but until we have those students and teacher with us to ensure instruction we will leave it as is.

Spence: Next is the FSA versus STAR % on grade level or above. Last year students STAR data had us projected to be an A school. STAR doesn't measure writing. If that had been better we would have been an A school. We are looking at many measures to make sure we are predicting our scores correctly. 78% in ELA, 75% in Math for FSA. 89% ELA, 82% Math in STAR. There was an 11% difference between FSA and STAR which is concerning. The difference is concerning. If we look in STAR we need a 175-200 scale score increase over the year.

Question from Sara Reese: Can you tell me more?

Spence: Look at the information that is sent home about your child's progress and you'll see a scale score. We had a training on reports and want to see a 175 to 200 point increase in the scale score to show growth.

Spence: FSA 2018 data: ELA 77% on or above grade level. 71% level 4 or 5, we moved the bright kids. 31% were level 3, which is on grade level, so many are above. 5% are level 1 or 2. 12 students did not make enough growth.

Math 78% are on or above grade level. 62% level 4 or 5. 54% level 3 and 8% level 1 or 2.

We are tracking low students, on our current students in our low 25, only 4 made a level 1.

Many of our lower 25 are a FSA level 3 or more.

Question from Sara Reese: What is the lowest 25?

Spence: If you have 100 kids and divide by 4 you get 25. We look at the lowest 25 scores, not students therefore if scores are doubled you may actually end up with 30 in your L25.

Spence: Last year 12 students based on STAR would have made us an A school but on FSA did not perform that well. For many schools the lowest 25 are level 1 and 2 but for us it includes level 3 students. We are working with teachers on this. Level 3's are in the middle. High students demand time, low students demand time, the level 3 get lost but we need to grow the middle.

Question from Mary Bess Wilson: Why is there a difference in ELA gains and math scores?

Spence: If you look at FSA versus STAR there is a larger gap in ELA than math between the STAR and FSA. If STAR included writing it would change the scores. Students have familiarity with STAR but not FSA. It is a high stakes test

with pressure on students. STAR is a better picture of students because it is throughout the year. But FSA is what counts. Any other questions? If you want more in depth explanation or during a meeting, let me know and I can add it to the meeting. It is challenging.

#### **2.4 Move to Dune Lakes**

Spence: The district has not decided on what Bay will be used as. She is excited to be under one roof. Teachers had a tour and the SAC can have a tour. It is projected to be complete in April or May. We will move over the summer and open in 2019. We will have a 5th grade but we do not know about Pre-K. She has requested to have Pre-K to 5th.

Question to the committee: Do you want to have PreK to 5th? Yes from Sara Reese, 2nd by Nicole Gil.

(Spence shows the architect drawings.)

Spence: The design is to represent Walton County, it goes from the beach to the lakes to forests. Even the color schemes change. There will be learning nodes to reflect the areas and have education information about the county with displays to show educational materials. We want to extend the learning outside of classrooms, so there are courtyards with an art focus and a science focus. The second node focuses on waterways; lakes, rivers, the bay, Freeport information (it was a free port), including one of the top products was turpentine which was transferred by ship. They would use barges and stop in Freeport for free. No one wanted the beaches because you could not farm on it. Next is the forestry lands with Smokey the Bear and information on controlled burns, the Gopher tortoise as a keystone species. As you move through there is more funding needed for the nodes such as soft seating and materials in the node. The last node includes bees. It is a welcome to the farm and includes bee farms, focusing on from farm to table. We want to have an actual beehive. We want to have include this, it would exit to the outside. Maude Saunders has one.

Comment from Mary Bess Wilson: Maude Saunders has their bees from a grant.

Spence: We would love to have it.

Question about bee stings: Maude Saunders has it and it is okay, we'll have to look into that.

Comment from Rhea Goff: We could use the Register Family farm as a possible resource.

#### **2.5 Maker's Lab at Dune Lakes**

Spence recommends we make a motion for the Maker's Lab, a hands on STEM lab. The past two years we have scaffolded the STEM instruction at the school. We had keyboarding and added coding this year. There are two certifications, one is through a national institution and is a lot of money. The other is an accreditation through AdvancED. We can have STEM present a pro/con of each option and present it to the SAC.

Motion from Sara Reese: to compare the two accreditation options and present to the next SAC meeting.

2nd by Rhea Goff.

All in favor: All I, zero no's.

Motion passes.

#### **2.6 Any other business?**

Sara Reese: Asks about additional funding needed for the school. Could the Boosters set a budget of the money still needed?

Spence: Yes, the Boosters can and also community groups.

Rhea Goff: She states that she is on the board of the St. Joe foundation and they focus on schools and STEM.

Spence: We want to focus on STEM to take the school to the next level but we have not applied for grants yet. Goff: Teachers can apply, it is better to ask for tangible materials than planning.

Spence: If the Boosters can raise money for the teacher training then the grants could cover the materials.

Parent attendee: Will the money raised be for this year or next?

Spence: The fall money raised will be for this year, to focus on items that transfer to the new school. Most of the money will be put to this year and spending money on training for staff. The spring fundraising will help for next year. We have tried to be strategic to be for this year or to move with us.

Parent attendee: What is the number of iPads needed for the growth of the school?

Spence: all students will have a device, the school will be one to one.

Mary Bess Wilson: Is there funding for the playground? Or art materials or a jungle gym?

Spence: The budget has two playgrounds, one for K-2 and the second for older kids. They are basic playgrounds that can be added to. The courtyards have some funding but don't yet know the dollar amounts. If they are able to save money in the process then we can use it later. They had to spend money to have a gym floor, the state did not include money for the floor, it was going to be concrete but savings in other areas allowed them to have a court floor.

Spence: we could have Mark Gardner come to the next SAC meeting.

Comment from Mary Bess Wilson: in the past the Boosters paid for the gym floor and the A/C.

Parent attendee: Are there renderings that could be displayed?

Spence: there will be new ones coming out that can be shared.

Mary Bess Wilson: She would like to have an end of the year survey for parent input. They can get some input from parents about the type of questions to ask and information to give. It would be more useful than the AdvancEd surveys. They could send out an online form and focus on what we want to know from parents -what type of questions to ask, for example the gifted programs (do we want to include the gifted and talented and the other high students). Or how important is a playground, about the cafeteria food, the music instruments.

Spence: The next meeting is January 28th at 5pm. We will have the minutes online, STEM will present, Mark Gardner and the beginning of parent surveys. She is excited that we are partners on the school level and not just at the district level.

**Next Meeting Date & Time:**

The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the School Cafeteria

**Meeting Adjournment:**

Motion: Mary Bess Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. with Rhea Goff Seconds the Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Ana Tomblin,

School Improvement Chair, SAC Secretary

Approval Date: 1-28-19