

PAS School Advisory Committee (SAC) December 2021 Meeting Minutes Monday, January 10, 2022, 3:45PM-4:45PM

In attendance: Lauren Overton (Principal), Jessica McCollum (SAC Member), Jayne Downing (SAC Member, school librarian), Theresa Knight (SAC Member and School Counselor), Vidya Plainfield (SAC President), Michelle Papachristou (SAC Member), Jennifer Nix (SAC Member and HSA Officer), Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky (SAC Member), Ann Kreidle (Guest and School Partnership Manager), Kristin Johnson (Guest and Assistant Principal), Burcu Eyigungor (Guest), Holly Lau (Guest), David Lapp (Guest), Casey Boss (Guest), Sara Ludder (Guest), Jon Kaufman (Guest), Fang Yuan (Guest), Christina Rosan (Guest), Hilary Danailova (Guest), Amanda Diesel (Guest), Jianjing Kuang (Guest), Abby Thaker (Guest), Russel Talukder (Guest), Mohammed Hassan (Guest), Jay Gantz (Guest), Ajinkya Sase (Guest), Mana Golzari-Hunt (Guest), Wenjie Wei (Guest), Walter Nixon (Guest), Yan Liu (Guest), Tingfang Chen (Guest), and Michael Ghohestani (Guest),

Open Forum

Several parents expressed concern that the threshold for closing schools was raised from 3 to 10% yet the district is saying that it is putting safety first. They are very appreciative of everything PAS is doing and are happy to continue to help but asked how does learning matter when people are getting sick. Principal Overton agreed and clarified that the Health Department is setting the threshold and is not counting anyone sick prior to January 4. PAS had 52 positive cases in 14 days but only those after January 4 count. PAS has 15 people out with only 3 subs. She is running lunch. Every facet of school life is impacted with the staffing shortages. The district is only determining school closures based on staffing levels. They are no longer using 20% as a threshold anymore. Now vaccinated students who have been in close contact can come to school. School cannot excuse them unless they are getting tested. Virtual learning is not an option if parents want child to remain enrolled at PAS. Quarantine learning is only for students who test positive. The kids have been amazing. We know this is taking a toll on everyone. Please keep asking questions so we can continue open lines of communication.

Parents can share their concerns with the Board of Education and Dr. Hite. Contact information is available on the district website. Michelle shared a google petition in the chat.

Parent asked if Lea Kindergarten teacher profiles could be shared with waitlist families of the upcoming lottery. Principal Overton said registration process will be announced soon. The district wants to wait to share until it has documents translated.

Parent asked for current enrollment numbers by grade. Principal will put in next week's pony.

Approval of December Minutes

Vidya motioned to approve the December minutes. Principal seconded the motion.

Principal Report - Ms. Overton

- 14-15 staff out daily.
- Trying to consolidate case count emails so parents receive less emails. Only using Membership Toolkit which has a higher participation rate than the SDP portal system.
- Please keep your phones accessible and answer any phone calls coming from 215-400-XXXX. This is either school nurse or automated district call.
- Pushing back clubs to January 31 due to staffing shortages. Notification of club assignments going out 1/21. Plenty of funding but need to make sure we have staff.
- Health kits are needed for families who need help with conducting daily screening checks - thermometers, screener laminated, health video
 - Jennifer Nix will organize an HSA fundraiser for the parents on the call who asked for a financial option.
- Affinity Groups will be delayed so that meals can still be a part of the program. There will be a call for volunteer babysitters and help and set up
- We hit a stride in the fall, now we are in rough patch. Priority is keeping teaching and learning going while keeping kids safe.
- Family engagement would be helpful, like a trivia night that we did last year.
- Check out the free Philadelphia Orchestra concert on the MLK Day.

Vehicular and Pedestrian Safety Committee Update

Vidya and Principal Overton will report at the next meeting.

Future SAC Meeting Dates

February 14, March 14, April 18 and May 9.

Adjourn

Viduya motioned to adjourn the meeting. Michelle seconded the motion.