

School Advisory Committee (SAC) February 2023 Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13th, 2023
3:45PM-4:45PM

<https://pennalexander.philasd.org/school-advisory-council/>

In attendance: Lauren Overton (Principal); Theresa Knight (PAS Counselor); Vidya Plainfield (SAC Chair); Amanda Diesel (HSA Secretary); Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky (SAC Member for SHCA); Ann Kreidle (PAS Partnership Manager); (PAS Faculty); Liz Wing (SAC Secretary); Veronica Alvarez (Parent); Michelle Papachristou (Parent)

Updates:

- When will website be updated with SAC FAQs?
 - Overton to update this week
- Traffic Safety Update
 - Proposal submitted for a Neighborhood Slow Zone from 42nd-48th, Spruce-Walnut (encompassing both Lea & PAS)
 - 400+ signatures submitted between the 2 proposals (Spruce Hill being the other)

Open Forum Topics: Facilities Planning, Building an Inclusive PAS Community

- Facilities Plans: What are the needs for support?
 - Community Garden
 - Stephanie Kearney, science teacher is point person
 - Fence needs to be rebuilt. A perfect parent project!
 - Parent volunteers needed over the summer
 - PAS field
 - Met w/parent & landscape architect Julie Bush. Conversation around artificial turf, drainage issues. Soil is heavily compacted and in extremely poor shape.
 - We have a vision, we need funding
 - Capital campaign needed
 - UPenn, PIC are partners in renovating the field
- Affinity Dinners in May
 - PAS needs help from the school community w/Affinity Dinners and with translation
 - Over 35 languages spoken here
 - We need parents to come to the dinners! We need help getting the word out!
- Building a culturally competent PAS community: we need to do the work
 - We need to hear from the community about what is needed across race, income, gender.
 - What intentional work can we do?
 - There is no prefabricated set of best practices. This is not a linear, binary process
 - Best practices need to come from dialogue with our school community

- Many matters just need the respect & time of personal conversations and making relationships
- How can we encourage more people to participate in SAC?
- SAC & HSA & Equity Circle linkage: How can we elevate conversations around equity within SAC for the school at large?
 - Would it make sense for Equity Circle to be a working group of SAC?
- Do we need regular parent education sessions?
 - We have money for training sessions for parents
- How can we take the information we get from students at Black Student Affinity Group to inform our community practice? Restorative practices?
 - Black kids want and expect other kids and adults to be culturally competent
 - How do we facilitate restorative conversations, not just reactive ones?
 - We are applying to be a Relationships First school – restorative justice practice training for next year
[\(https://www.philasd.org/schoolclimate/programs-services/relationshipsfirst/\)](https://www.philasd.org/schoolclimate/programs-services/relationshipsfirst/)
 - It's targeted around race & equity, but is for all kids
 - It will allow more staff to be trained in restorative practices
- What measurements can be used to evaluate our progress in meeting our equity goals?
 - SDP will put out its first equity report card this year

Principal Report/Open Forum Topic Follow up: Academics & Curriculum-PAS Educational Family Support Programs

- Black Student Affinity Group update: students reporting micro & macro aggressions
 - [Code of Conduct](#), [Bullying & Harassment Policy](#) emphasized, links have been sent to parents
 - Communication Flowchart is an important tool for parents to reach out to staff about issues.
 - Resources re: talking w/kids about race have been shared w parents.
 - Can we do another parent education session?
- How do we create a sense of belonging for every child here?
- How do we get teachers to use complex data points to inform practice?
 - Providing time for staff to strategize around kids needing support.
 - School-wide MTSS meetings (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support)
 - Recent walkthrough w/ assistant principals to receive feedback
 - UPenn leadership team came 2/8 to provide feedback
 - 3rd, 4th, 5th grade & middle school kids led conversations on this topic w/UPenn staff... shared their experiences as students, what they like about teachers. How they feel safe/unsafe at school.
 - Teachers also engaged w/process to provide feedback, support

- Budget projections coming out in the near future; Overton to share when SDP has shared
- Communication Flowchart – positive remarks so far; waiting for parent comments
- Parent Talk w/Al Vernaccio about sexuality & consent; well attended & received; next time, take parent questions first
 - Ongoing work w/SEL classes
 - Middle schoolers work w/SEL and in partnership w/Missoni Center
 - Partnership w/Missoni Center is no-cost to PAS
- Curriculum Night – well attended & received. Content, food, childcare were big hits.
 - Feedback: could this be 2 events? Could this occur earlier in the year?
 - Improvement of the event is not a funding issue, it's a people power issue (i.e. asking teachers to stay late)
 - Do hybrid online/in person event next year?
- Playgroup for neurodiverse kids & families in the works
- Family-Teacher conferences:
 - All teachers should provide hybrid options for parents; if your teacher did not provide an online or phone-in option and you wanted one please speak up
 - Moving forward, teachers will use one unified platform for signups
- Family/teacher communications
 - Using one platform for teacher communication (Dojo? Google Classroom?)
Choose a unified platform to use in the next school year
 - Agenda topic: SAC members to solicit feedback from school community on communication platforms (conference signups, homework/classroom comm platforms)
 - This year, every grade sends a printed weekly newsletter to families

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Vidya, seconded by Becca; minutes approved

Reminder Next SAC Meeting Topic: TBD

Future Dates: 3/13/23, 4/10/23, 5/15/23, 6/12/23

Grade	Current Enrollment ()
K	
1	
2	
3	
4	

5	
6	
7	
8	