

## School Advisory Committee (SAC) May 2023 Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 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); Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky (SAC Member for SHCA); Ann Kreidle (PAS Partnership Manager); Liz Wing (SAC Secretary); Jessica McCollum (Parent)

### Updates

- Update on Neurodiversity
  - Playgroup at PAS on Wednesday 5/17
  - Includes affinity space for students of color
  - We will have translators available
- Parent Survey Participation efforts (goal >75%)
  - We are at 65%. Already an improvement from 54% last year
  - Overton to send another Robocall AFTER school to remind families
  - Most classes are at or above 90%
  - Deadline is the end of next week!

### Open Forum

- What behavior management strategies are used in Kindergarten?
  - PAS starts with “The Power of Three”
    - We take care of ourselves; we take care of others; we take care of our community
  - We use a [Responsive Classroom](#) approach
    - During the first 6 weeks of school, all teachers K-8 interpret this for their students
    - By providing responsive content and explicit language about what behavior is expected, we establish behaviors in the classroom that prevent major disciplinary issues
    - Students build social-emotional skills to learn how to avoid and manage conflict
      - In K, we use a lot of social stories to do this
    - The bedrock is planning high quality instruction
    - Reflecting as a school community and taking it from there
  - Are strategies consistent across the grade? Are they determined teacher to teacher?
    - In an ideal world, we would be consistent across classrooms
      - Probably 80% of the school is moving in that direction
    - Admin doesn't agree with a token economy, but it is used in some classrooms
      - Some students with IEPs have specific reward-based approaches that are individual to them

- Some classes have class-wide incentives
  - Are any of the strategies are visible to the whole class (ie behavior “traffic light” on the board)
    - We do NOT use public shaming to manage classroom behavior (ie traffic light or flip card charts). We have intervened with substitutes who use this approach
    - Some 4th grade classrooms use Class Dojo. We do not use Class Dojo for anything other than communication; it is NOT used for points.
- Language accessibility
  - What languages need to be included in school material to reach the largest percentage of PAS families?
    - Arabic, Bengali, Spanish, Mandarin
  - What key documents can we have available in multiple languages?
    - Student Handbook, communication rubric
      - Have Google translate do the bulk of the work and then request editing by a volunteer
  - Re-start monthly “Chat & Chew” meetings w/language-based communities
    - Talk with parents who are able to help facilitate
  - Follow up re: Talking Points for .pdf translation
- Neighborhood Slow Zone program updates
  - Both applications (Walnut Hill, Spruce Hill) were denied – this was expected and it is OK!
    - Although we did not receive funding, we do have hard data that we can use for future applications
    - 2023 Score Report can be found here: <https://visionzerophl.com/plans-and-reports/>
  - We had 2nd highest community support amongst groups who applied
  - We also rallied people to to come out and talk w/[OTIS](#) rep & an engineer to review site w/PAS staff & parents
  - More work to be done next year!
- Open Forum topic regarding AI at PAS for 2023-2024 school year
  - Can PAS add an item re: AI in Student Handbook?

### **Principal Report**

- 4 weeks of school left!
- We are hiring!
  - 2 special assignments: Kindergarten, 1st grade to replace teachers on temporary leave
  - 1 regular position (Social Studies)
  - We are hiring certified teachers, not subs. We have strong candidates in the wings
  - Selection committee includes multiple faculty & staff; candidates present to the committee and also teach a class
- SDP will be collecting Chromebooks for the summer, which differs from past years.

- We will be sending home Math & ELA workbooks, .pdfs, access to videos. This will go home w/students in a backpack along with information about upcoming school year
- Wizard of Oz is coming up at the end of the month
- Instrumental music performance coming up this Friday 5/19
- Professional Development
  - Ryan from SDP's DEI office to facilitate PD this Friday 5/19
  - We will be partnering w/agency to support many new families who are refugees
  - 5 PAS teachers will be attending Responsive Classroom PD over the summer
    - Classroom management involving social-emotional learning, with K-5 and 6-8 models
    - Restorative practices will start in middle school
- 5/30: Zoom session w/Q&A for 7th graders/rising 8th grade families re: Algebra, blended 8th grade math
  - Kids will only be tracked in their 1st period of the day; de-tracked for the rest of the day
- Graduation
  - Joanna McClinton (Speaker of the House for PA; 1st woman, 1st Black person to be SoH)
  - Will be held in the gym this year
- School dance, 5K, Pasta party coming up
- Most PAS students participated in the PSSA, which will give us more accurate numbers re: students' academic standing
- 2nd graders to be screened for gifted/talented needs via Naglieri General Ability Test

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

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

*Future Dates: 9/18/23*

Grade	Current Enrollment ( )
K	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

6	
7	
8	