

## **School Advisory Committee (SAC) December 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, December 11th, 2023**

**3:45PM-4:45PM**

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

**In attendance:** Lauren Overton (Principal), Lisa Lapina (Faculty, PFT building rep), Theresa Knight (SAC member, School Counselor), Vidya Plainfield (SAC Member, parent), Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky (SAC Member for SHCA, parent), Ann Kreidle (PAS Partnership Manager), Liz Wing (SAC Secretary, parent), Susie Pierce (HSA President, parent), Chanell Bates (parent representative), Jessica McCollum (parent representative)

### **SAC Agenda Review (5 mins)**

#### **Principal Report (10 mins)**

- Philly School Experience Survey results have come back, results printed and shared w/SAC members
  - We still only have aggregate data at this time, our ability to understand the details of how which groups responded to which questions is limited
    - Lauren can see some, not all of the disaggregated data
  - We have an opportunity to use these results to pick a high-leverage thing to focus on
    - Teacher scores were low; this could be an area to focus on
    - We can look at these results alongside the school well-being survey to get some context
- Interim reports are coming out Monday
  - We will be using some of our PD time this Friday to finalize these
    - Teachers marked this time as one of the most stressful of the year
      - Gender parity has a large role here, as many of our teachers are women who both work at PAS and do the labor of holiday preparations and childcare over the break
- Events
  - Winter concert Thursday 12/14
  - Volleyball wants to do an alumni and teacher-student game before the break
  - Past events: Science Fair, Robotics, Math League competitions all went well
- Recent interval STAR results
  - We're seeing a decrease in the number of kids needing intensive intervention – we are growing in regards to academic achievement
- Still struggling with attendance!
- COVID kits will be handed out before the break
- 8th graders are still in the process of interviewing and auditioning at high schools; this will be ongoing through December and into January

**Open Forum Topic: Online Learning Platforms (OLPs) and family-teacher communication (20 mins)**

- Results from family survey (10 respondents)
  - 2 responses from upper grades, 8 responses from lower grades
  - Online learning platforms were used for messaging, homework, sharing photos & documents
  - Comments include
    - Not wanting to use multiple OLPs
    - Preferring or relying on email for communication over using OLPs' messaging features
    - Appreciating messaging feature on Class Dojo
- There was a conversation w/teachers, PFT building committee, and principal over the summer about what OLPs teachers wanted to use
  - Class Dojo, Google Classroom, and Remind were requested by teachers
    - Dojo OK to use as long as points feature is not use
  - For lower grades, Dojo is preferred for its photo sharing & messaging functions
  - For upper grades, Google Classroom is a better fit for homework
  - Google Classroom doesn't offer communication with families in the way that Dojo does
- Lapina: there is a learning curve for parents to use Class Dojo, and teachers can (and have) supported that
- Talking Points is another platform that was looked into last year, particularly because it has strong language translation features.
  - Dojo has some translation abilities as well, for a limited number of languages
- All grade teams must agree on a platform
- Weekly emails must be sent out to families; Overton will reach out to teachers to make sure that they are doing this
- There is a need to further educate parents on how to use the OLPs in general and as their kids progress through the grades
  - We need to make a video walkthrough for parents on Dojo and on Google Classroom outlining features, like notifications and email forwarding
- Specialist corner: can we ask specialists to use Dojo as well?
- Overton to circle back with 4th grade to clarify communication issues families are reporting

**Vote on key topics for the year (10 mins)**

- Vote taken from list of topic areas in the agenda
- Results:
  - School budget review & field rehab project (January 2024)
  - Building an inclusive PAS community: supporting neurodiversity
  - Building an inclusive PAS community: supporting an anti-bullying climate
  - Building family connections: play days, new family meetings, neighbor meet & greets, etc.

### **Traffic and Safety Update (5 mins)**

- Nate Hummel from UCD and Adam Smith from Streets made a design for the 43rdxSpruce intersection (see image at end of notes)
  - Closest analogue is Baltimore x 48th
- Next step: Nate Hummel submits application and we wait to see if it gets approved. Then we negotiate cost; then Streets will install.
  - UCD and Streets may be able to pay for some; we will also pay for some. There's negotiating to be done
- We won't know how much it will cost until after the application is approved
  - Can parents pressure UCD, councilmembers to cover the cost?
    - Can we get kids to write letters?

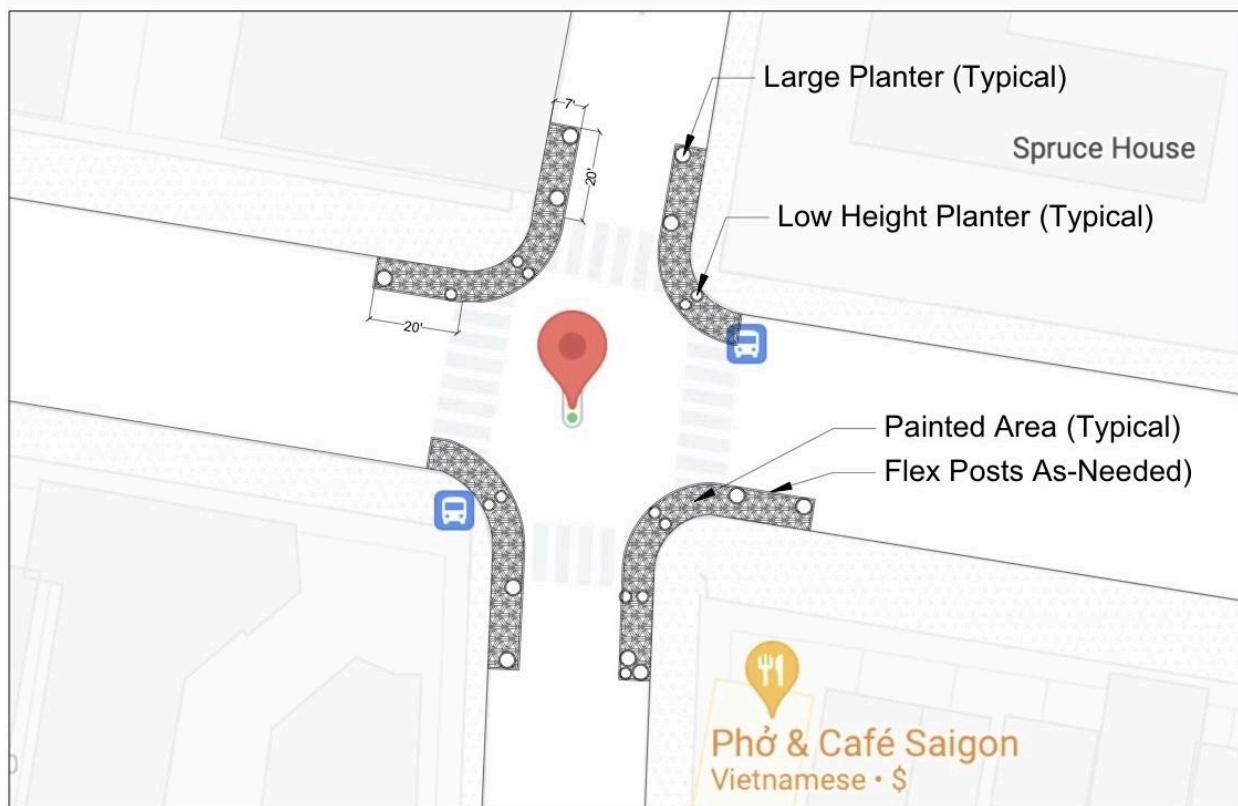
### **Proposal and vote on interim Parent Representative: Chanell Bates (5 mins)**

Vidya motions; all approve

### **Approval Previous Meeting Minutes (5 mins)**

Vidya motions; all approve

### **Reminder Next SAC Meetings: 1/8/24, 2/12/24, 3/4/24, 4/15/24, 5/13/24**



<b>Grade</b>	<b>Current Waitlist (12/11/23)</b>
K	5
1	13
2	22
3	30
4	26
5	32
6	14
7	16
8	13

Waitlist numbers are posted monthly in the SAC notes. For questions about the waitlist, contact the PAS office at 215-400-7760. Please see the school's statement on enrollment here: <https://pennalexander.philasd.org/enrollment/>