

School Advisory Committee (SAC) January 2024 Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8th, 2024

3:45PM-4:45PM

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

In attendance: Lauren Overton (Principal), 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)

Approval Previous Meeting Minutes

Vidya motions to approve, Rebecca seconds, minutes approved.

Principal Report (10 mins)

- Off to a strong start this year. PD on 1/2/24 allowed for planning, review of student progress data.
 - 18 kids at PAS are receiving intensive intervention, down from 65.
 - Our interventions are working. Small group instruction has been the focus.
 - 99.5% of kids have returned to school by the end of the week
- Kids who are struggling the most attend 80-85% of the time. Need to emphasize attendance.
 - How can we incentivize? Food/treats? School dance?
- We had a conversation about communication w/families during PD, incorporating the points made at December's SAC meeting
- Shelter-in-place drill is upcoming
 - February most likely
 - We will notify families to be as transparent as possible, via Pony and elsewhere
 - We will stick with our existing protocols for this drill
 - There will be a staff meeting ahead of time to plan
- Pancake breakfast coming up February 2nd!
- Jan. 17th, Equity Circle event is coming up. Please come! Caroline Hill will be hosting a racial literacy workshop to support parents raising children in our cross-racial, multilingual, multiethnic democracy. Caroline has done some equity walks through the building and is known to us, has helped to create an environment of belonging here.
- HSA/Equity Circle meeting is coming up
- Report card conferences are coming up at the beginning of February. There will be night conferences in addition to day conferences.
- Afterschool clubs for the winter: online sign up has begun
 - PAS will connect w/PIC to coordinate kids transfer between PIC and PAS this winter
- K registration is now online. Starts on 1/16 (the day after MLK day)
- We met w/middle school families to talk about creating some middle school meetups (ie bowling, school lock-in event, silent dance party)

- We are planning for Lunar New Year, Ramadan, International Language Day, Black History Month/Black Lives Matter week, Women's History Month, AAPI month. How can we involve families?
- How can we support teachers in these winter months?
 - We have funds for teachers via HSA to distribute
 - Teacher appreciation week in May – we will do a letter writing campaign again

Open forum Topic: School Budget Review (15 min); Field rehab project (20 min)

- Unknown what the budget will look like at this time; Principals don't get projections until Feb/March. Budgets will be challenging this year.
 - Overton can be creative with funding
 - HSA can support the school financially this year if needed.
- Staffing & building needs cost the most
 - PAS building costs 8mil to run
 - Staffing is 4mil; operating budget is 4.4mil
- No more ARPA funds this year
- 100k coming in this year. We will use some of these funds for our assistant principal.
 - Unlikely that we will have a dean of students this year
 - We may have funding for a climate manager for lunch/recess
- Teachers still cost 130k a year (the maximum salary teachers can get per SDP/PFT)
 - We will try to keep teachers in interventionist positions
 - We have some faculty interested in pursuing school-based teacher leadership that we could pull
- Curriculum up for renewal; we can advocate for that to be paid for by Penn partnership
- After School clubs – we are looking into pay-to-play options (i.e. Bilingual Butterflies); having HSA cover cost
- SEL is starting to gel; we will debate continuing this special
- At what point can we, as families in the community, reach out to support school positions (specialists, interventionists, temporary positions)?
- Overton will continue to talk with families, staff, and community regarding budget as knowledge of it comes up.
 - A reminder that the budget is always talked about PFT meeting w teachers, SAC, HSA, CwP, Equity Circle.
- Field renovation report
 - We will need to allocate funds specifically for the field
 - This will be a capital campaign that will be run very differently from how we fund staff positions, for example
 - We have a parent, Jenn Nix-Kable, who has experience running capital campaigns and who will be helping us plan
 - HSA has been running an overage for several years; we have earmarked 100k from this overage for the field
 - Can we do small-scale funding campaigns with the community (i.e. buy-a-brick, buying benches)?
- HSA is investing in upgrading the audio in the gym, should be done summer 2024
- SHCA meeting tomorrow (1/9/24) night – Nate Hummel will be presenting on 43rd street safety/pedestrian plaza

Reminder Next SAC Meetings: 2/12/24, 3/4/24, 4/15/24

| Grade | Current Waitlist (1/8/24) |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 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/>