

School Advisory Committee (SAC) February 2024 Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 12th, 2024
3:45PM-4:45PM

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

In attendance: Lauren Overton (Principal), Theresa Knight (SAC member, School Counselor), Rochelle Johnson (SAC member, Faculty, PFT building rep), Vidya Plainfield (SAC President, parent), Ann Kreidle (PAS Partnership Manager), Liz Wing (SAC Secretary, parent), Susie Pierce (HSA President, parent), Chanell Bates (SAC member, parent), Jessica McCollum (SAC member, parent), Hermione Azondekon (SDP Family Engagement Liaison)

SAC Agenda Review (5 mins)

Principal Report (10 mins)

- NAEP testing completed
 - PAS 4th & 8th graders participate every 4 years
- PD this past week: focused on belonging. Faculty & staff reviewed responses to the School Experience Survey to guide conversation
 - Belonging: when kids don't feel like they belong at school, it affects their academics
 - Who is being historically marginalized? How is that showing up here?
 - Follow up on: what kids are getting support?
 - Who is being called on in the classroom?
 - We're getting different responses based on race and gender between 3rd & 8th graders to these questions
 - Teachers did an equity walk through the school to talk about examples and strategies for including belonging in the classroom
 - We need more PD on implementing the lessons we've learned from studying implicit bias
 - How can we funnel this out to families so they know this conversation is happening at school?
 - Can we do empathy interviews with families who attended affinity dinner?
- Talent show is coming up; production for the school musical production is underway
- Radical Readers afterschool program happening now (free tutoring from UPenn GSE)
- Today was the 100th day of school! Big celebrations throughout all classes
 - Shout out to the middle school – they did 100 minutes of community service
 - Hundreds of sandwiches made for community fridge at 52nd street
- Our school chicks are hatching! This is traditionally a 1st grade project, but the SEL teacher hosted one of the incubators so that students who missed this project during Covid could participate.
- Overton had conversation w/PennGSE Dean on strengthening our relationship with the university & garnering their support
- Budget is starting to be rolled out: enrollment projections for 2024-2025 will be made this week. Final projections next week.
 - Full budget & budget memo on 2/29
- SAC can encourage people to contact Harrisburg to support bill for increasing school funding
 - Can we draft a document to share w/community that encourages contacting local representatives?

- Liz & Vidya to create document to be distributed at CwP, HSA spotlight email
- March 7th is the Equity Circle Potluck & Parent Workshop with Caroline Hill, focusing on racial literacy. Open to teachers, parents, all PAS community.

Open forum Topic: Supporting a Climate of Belonging/Anti-Bullying at PAS

- How can we create a culture of belonging at PAS?
- Teachers start out the school year doing identity work with their kids
 - Some teachers (ie Ms. Falcon, Ms. Ross, Ms. Severino) carry this work throughout the year
- Teachers are working on pedagogical practices related to how kids feel included in the classroom
- Sometimes bullying in the classroom is related to race, sometimes it is not
 - i.e. 5th graders becoming more cliquish. SEL and SW interns are supporting intervention work with this age group
- Anti-bullying pledge/Unity Day happens in October
- Can we send a school-wide tip sheet to parents about how to talk w/kids about bullying, who to reach out to? Classroom teacher, Ms. Knight, Ms. Talbert, SDP anonymous tipline
- How to teach kindness to your kids. We see kids being kind here! How can we continue to support that?
- We communicate with & support kids when bullying is happening outside of the school, in school adjacent spaces
- Back to School night: can we do a quick developmental guide for parents re: what to expect? “Here’s what it is to be a 5th grader”?
 - We can order yardstick pamphlets for families as a guide for what to expect
- Lunch bunches: it’s largely voluntary & intervention-oriented. We have done mix-it-up days in the past, but they are resource-heavy
- Need to loop back before October to talk about how we can include & cross-communicate programming for Unity Day & parents

SAC needs to make a running list of things to do over the summer; we can do a mini-session in April or May to plan for 2024-2025

Field Rehab Project Update (10 mins)

- Waiting on Jenn Nix-Kable for next steps
- HSA will be navigating different levels of financial engagement
 - Looking into a PIC partnership
- Link to outdoor conceptual design is here: <https://pennalexander.philasd.org/outdoor-conceptual-design/>
- HSA is working on a story about the progression of outdoor facilities to interest community members in investing in the field

Pedestrian Plaza Update (10 mins)

- Final step of application has been provided to Nate Hommel of UCD; he will send it in today or tomorrow
 - He says we will be granted approval within 2-3 weeks tops
- Meanwhile, we need to fundraise 15k
 - Becca is waiting on Nate to itemize the costs, and then will send to HSA
- Upon approval, we can order planters (4-6 weeks delivery) and work out a paint design. The design is a community process, so stay tuned!

- Ms. Newberg's class is interested in participating
- Steps of installation are: paint, planters, flexible delineators
 - If all goes smoothly, this will be completed by end of April/early May
- Overton & Ms Talbert to create a safety call slideshow/video re: where people can park and where they can't
 - This would be a good item for Back to School night 2024-2025: how to safely drop off your kids!

Approval Previous Meeting Minutes

Vidya makes motion to approve; Lauren seconds. Minutes approved.

Reminder Next SAC Meetings: 3/4/24, 4/15/24, 5/13/24

Grade	Current Waitlist (2/12/24)
K	6
1	16
2	24
3	30
4	26
5	32
6	15
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/>