

**School Advisory Committee (SAC) January 2025 Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 13th, 2025**  
**3:45PM-4:45PM**

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

**In attendance:** Lauren Overton (Principal), Tiffany Talbert (Assistant Principal), Ann Kreidle (PAS Partnership Manager), Vidya Plainfield (SAC vice-chair, parent), Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky (SAC Member for SHCA, parent), Liz Wing (SAC Secretary, parent), Susie Pierce (HSA President, parent), Natasha Dye (FACE Liaison), Lisa Lapina (PAS faculty, PFT Representative)

**Welcome & SAC Agenda Review**

**Approval of 12/24 Meeting Minutes**

Becca motions to approve; Vidya seconds. Minutes approved.

**Principal Report**

- We have our 2nd STAR testing data set of the year
  - Overall growth is above the average projection
    - This growth seen across all racial groups, multilanguage learners, students with IEPs
- Increase in attendance in December: 90% of students made the mark
- Conferences coming up, including one late-night conference
- Pancake breakfast is coming up! Please come!
- 5K planning has started
- Field project is moving along
- Winter afterschool club cycle is opening up
- Radical Readers partnership w/Penn GSE to start its 2nd year
  - 6-week intervention program for K-8 kids who need additional reading support

**Open Forum: Student Mental Health**

- Neurodiversity group update
  - Vidya to participate in Neurodiversity & Disability Support Circle, part of the Family Impact Initiative
    - Group meets 1x/month
  - Vidya to pursue Philadelphia Autism Project grant application
  - We can definitely do a book list w/Ms Ross
  - We can also do a spirit/awareness week w/Autism Speaks
- Student mental health
  - Biggest gap is getting services for kids where external barriers are in place (ie transportation to and from therapy)
  - PAS can triage & help people find resources & services; we are a liaison to kids getting the services that they need
    - We also provide support to teachers who work with these kids & help them to be responsive to what kids need
  - We want ALL our kids to understand their feelings, be able to identify & talk about their feelings
    - We do this in SEL, our 1st-tier response to kids' mental health needs

- SEL is an important weekly class for our kids. Keeping this position funded is a priority
  - Our social work team is part-time, not full-time. Penn School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) provides our paid staff member (Beth Clauss) who then assigns SP2 students
    - Would be great to have full-time social work, but we don't have the funding. Most PhilaSD schools don't have full time social work
    - Beth's salary is outside of PSD budget; it is paid by SP2
    - Can we get information about what covering the gap would look like?
  - Top of principal Overton's wish list
    - Full-time social work staff member
    - Maintaining funding for intervention
    - Maintaining funding for SEL
    - Social work staff to align families with parent coaching resources

**Reminder: Next Meeting Dates**

2/10 (2nd Monday; no school 3rd Monday), 3/17, 4/21, 5/19 (placeholder)

Grade	Current Waitlist (1/13/25)
K	12
1	8
2	20
3	30
4	34
5	29
6	36
7	18
8	18

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/>