

PAS School Advisory Committee (SAC) February 2025 Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 10th, 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), Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky (SAC Member for SHCA, parent), Susie Pierce (HSA President, parent), Natasha Dye (FACE Liaison), Lisa Lapina (PAS faculty, PFT Representative)

Approval of 1/25 minutes

Becca motions to approve minutes, Susie seconds. Minutes approved.

Principal Report

- Lunar New Year: Friday the kids had a concert. That concert was in response to One Book, Many Stories. Cultural heritage months are ongoing and teachers collectively plan. It helps to unfurl Sadie's life across the grades. Equity Circle feedback was that only older kids know about Sadie, so a curriculum was developed and older kids will display a museum-like display about Sadie.
- Strange week ahead prepared for with some feedback about the last minute pivot. Full learning day is pre-planned if the call for a snow day happens. No more snow days are in the school year, so all other days off will need to be virtual. Chrome books are being inventoried and logistics worked out for younger kids to keep some home and older kids to be prepared to tote them back and forth. Messages will be sent to families tomorrow as we know more about the weather. Principal will send a message and then teachers. Request for the zoom link to have room number (hotlinked). A spreadsheet with links is organized and at the ready. K and 1st will have a physical bag of work. Other grades will send home their normal workbooks from class (wordly wise/ grammar/ wit and wisdom). District will call the day off Friday.
- Budget outline was given and Overton looked over it. Similar ratios (which were downsized last year) to last year. Updates should come before March. Priorities: maintaining school based leader, intervention, and SEL as a special. Ms. Severino will be on maternity leave with a year off from the district, but Overton still wants to prioritize the position. Climate staff will also be a priority. SDP plans for 2 adults with 150 ish kids outside, but currently PAS has 6 people staffed. 2 vacancies next year: (1) Ms. Naughton will retire in September, but hiring can happen prior to their retirement. (2) SEL
- PSSA starts in the spring. Teachers are preparing. We may be pivoting to fully digital because next year it will be required.
- Neurodiversity Update: library will be getting many books centered around neurodiversity. Maria Cio Pena will come and talk with teachers and join the panel.
- 275 kids in extracurriculars
- Musical is in full swing
- Teachers are continuing a book study on cultural responsiveness and the brain by Zaretta Hammond

- Teachers are going through MTSS on a 6-12 week basis to check in on students with needs in the classroom. Meetings happened about how to best support these students. Family outreach should have already happened.
- Night conferences seemed to alleviate problems in the upper grades. Seems to have been a smoother experience.
- Pi day will have a math family day for grades K-5. Fun game night. Older kids volunteer to support.
- Equity Circle: wants to host a potluck to offer resources to families of immigrant communities and maybe even reboot affinity dinners. Second half of the night will be a “choose your own adventure” based on needs and interest.
- All but 5 applicants got into highschools of their choice. 2 of those students have access to private schools. 1 is moving. 1 kid is getting a lot of support from Ms. Knight. Many are going to Central (26), SLA, Palumbo, Carver
 - On Mondays the waitlists for high schools will be updated
- We currently do not have a waitlist for 25-26 kindergarten

Open Forum: Safety

- No crossing guards: one guard on long term leave, one position was never re-filled. Could parents call the streets department to advocate for more crossing guards? Overton will write up a blurb for Room Parents to send out.
- Parking lot rules: no bikes in the parking lot, no parking in front of it
- Bike Caravan: Becca will reach out to see how it is going, affirm how we appreciate they disembark near the bike locks, ask what they notice around safety
- Security for School Events: Penn Police will often attend events, PAS pays Ms. D to be at the back door for basketball events
- Have there been curb cuts at the front entrance Locust side? No. Becca will ask about the updates from the original safety walk w/Streets Dept. *Becca heard back from Harry Hua that he has no updates*
- Front door key swipe has been broken for two years. Rather than being fixed, the SDP will be eventually replacing the whole key swipe system. From 7:30 until lunch time there is a climate staff member posted to unlock the front door, otherwise someone from the office needs to unlock the door

Parent Concern: Dismissal

- Daniel (parent since 2009)
 - Previously, formal dismissal policy was K-2 may not walk home alone. That is different in SDP schools. Lea will dismiss 1, 2 graders with the recommendation of a walking buddy. But now it seems K-3 may not walk home alone.
- Overton asked about a board policy and learned...
 - Principal is *in loco parentis* until students get home, so she feels comfortable with supporting families on a case by case basis for students under 4th grade. This kid would need explicit parental consent.
- Daniel asked if there is a reason for the change of no K-2 walkers, but now no K-3 walkers

- Overton mentioned there was no specific upticks of dangerous activities, but a word of mouth shift over years.
- Overton wonders if we should change the language for the handbook in fall of '25, and that it would look like reaching out to teachers and to building committee.
- Chanell asked if a survey might help SAC know what families are thinking and how teachers might manage changes made in policy.
- Daniel mentions the helpful qualities of the independence
- Overton plans to bring it up at building committee meeting, PLC for 3rd graders, and the larger school community.

Field Update

- Met with Joanne Mitchell and Jeffrey Cooper from Presidents' Office; we are not hopeful about the University providing funding because of the political climate
- They are concerned they will lose federal funds, and so they are being conservative with the money they share.
- They could help us look for other financial sponsors/ grants around public space and children in outdoor public space.
- We have 100k total; project is about 800k
- SDP paid field maintenance bill

Reminder: Next Meeting Dates

3/17, 4/21, 5/19 (placeholder)

Grade	Current Waitlist (2/10/25)
K	12
1	6
2	20
3	30
4	34
5	29
6	36
7	18
8	19

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/>