



Orlando Gifted Academy
School Advisory Council (SAC)
Meeting Minutes
9.20.2018
Orlando Gifted Academy- Media Center

Member Attendance: Annette Nielsen, Rebecca Sirkle, Amber Sepulvado, Daphne Velez-Cortez, Patricia Knowles

Call to Order: A meeting of the The Orlando Gifted Academy School Advisory Council was held in the Media Center on 9.20.2018. SAC Chair Annette Nielsen called the meeting to order at 5:01pm. Amber Sepulvado will record minutes for this meeting. Chair Annette Nielsen welcomed everyone.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Rebecca Sirkle motioned to approve the minutes from 8/23/18.
Motion approved unanimously.

SAC Open Positions: Vote on Ms. Daphne Velez-Cortez
Annette Nielsen motioned to approve.
Motion approved by Rebecca Sirkle.
Motion carried.

Old Business:
N/A

New Business:

- School Improvement Plan (SIP) Updates
 - TBD
- Identification of School Improvement Plan Goals
 - TBD
- Bylaws require that the Bylaws be reviewed in April and September for amendment recommendations.
 - Bylaws created/reviewed in August

- General Election Day:
 - Will be 11/6/18

Principal's Report:

- Progress reports go home this week
- Field trips- Pushing for more field trips
- Iready- reminder of use
- Parent conferences in October- teachers will reach out to schedule
- Picture Day 10/1
- Clubs-
 - Contact sponsor if interested
 - Special qualifications for each club
 - National Junior honor society- not on list but guidance counselor will notify students who qualify
 - Parent volunteers needed
- Parent Academy- Sept 28th
 - Kickoff with a Book Talk on the book: Grit
- Student Round Table will start at the end of month
 - No criteria for selection
 - 10-15 students per round table
 - Voice concerns about school

Chair's Report:

- Additions Volunteers
 - Bring screenshot of addition application to make it more seamless
- Instructional Coach- Mary Ann Dunn
 - Instructional teacher to help teachers be more efficient with curriculum planning
 - Make sure teachers have ways to initiate EPs
 - Newsletters more effective
- Student Counselor- Ms. Willson
 - Background is behaviorist
 - Work with her for 504/IEP
 - Encourage everyone to get to know her and to spend time with her

Open Agenda (Non-SAC Members): Topics of Concern

Q: Question on personnel/hiring for teacher role- what was process for hiring? Open applications or through district?

A: Regular application and interview and references from current principal. Started hiring process earlier because this was a new school. Will be in a better position next year since we know the children better. Just a growing pain of new school.

Q: We have great gifted teachers but they seem to not know about disabilities/ uniqueness/disabilities/sensory processing issue. Is there training forthcoming for these teachers?

A: Training is offered for teachers; They may have endorsement but may have not been in setting where they have taught gifted kids all day. Will have more training based on needs identified in the students. Encourage parents to share in parent/teacher conference
Teacher says it is easier when parents are forward and give information up front about their child so the teacher is aware and can prepare/tailor their approach for that student.

Q: For the applicants that applied, were they considered if they were working towards endorsement or was it a requirement to have it?

A: Following district guidelines, as long as they have started the process for gifted endorsement, they can teach gifted children. 80% of the teachers are fully gifted endorsed.

Q: Will there be any way to look at the class sizes to make them smaller since teachers have so much to do as the general education teacher and gifted teacher all in one?

A: The schools budget dictates how many teachers that can be hired. Maybe next year we can look at the budget and the class sizes and make that determination.

Q: Will there be a 6th grade addition to OGA next year? As a parent of a current OGA 5th grader who is thriving, there is concern about this.

A: Principal Knowles is working with the district on this and encourages parents to write the district superintendent and voice your concerns and share you success stories of OGA so far. His contact information is Rahim.Jones@ocps.net.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion: Annette Nielsen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:53pm.
Motion Seconded by Amber Sepulvado.

Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location: 10.18.2018 5:00pm Media Center Orlando Gifted Academy

Submitted by: Amber Sepulvado- SAC Secretary

Approval date: 10/18/2018

Rebecca Sirkle- Motion to approve minutes

Amber Sepulvado- Seconded motion

All in agreement, motion carried

1

¹ The Orlando Gifted Academy School Advisory Council (SAC) is a team of individuals from various segments of the community;parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, business/industry people and other interested community members. The sole purpose of the SAC is to "assist in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan." [Florida Statute 229.58]