Pedro Menendez High School

SAC Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2015

Members present:

Clay Carmichael

Kristen Mullins

Kate Neff

Tim Egnor

Roger Williams

Jessica McCloud

Marci Poston

Tammy Simmons

Diana Churchill

Nancy Little

Wanda English

Jill Lee

I. Welcome

II. Request for funds from Adrienne Paone, Literacy Coach

* Skype session with author Paul Volponi for Rick Ryan’s Creative Writing class for $300
* Approximately 40 students ranging from intensive reading students to IB students
* This would be Volponi’s second visit. He Skyped once previously with this class in November.
* Roger Williams moved to approve funds, Wanda English seconded motion.

III. Updates from Dr. Carmichael

* Academy Night tonight (Thursday) for incoming eighth graders and even ninth graders thinking about joining an academy
  + Emphasizes academy programs and clubs, but also gives overview of the school as a whole
* Teacher of the Year, Pat Smith, and Rookie Teacher of the Year, Susannah Jones, recognized at school board meeting this week and banquet coming up on 2/4
* Working with new PLATO teacher, Philip Dexheimer, to make plans for at-risk students, including using high-yield strategies (IB and AVID input)
* Financial Aid Night was Tuesday night
  + Over 50 parents came, it was the best turnout ever
* Course registrations begin in February for next year
* Upcoming important dates
  + February 12th: IB Dance Concert at 7pm in the PAC
  + March 4th: Cultural Fair at 6pm
  + April 17th: Grad Night
  + May 15th: Prom
  + May 21st: Senior Awards Night
  + May 28th: Graduation

IV. Cell phone trial period usage update

* Feedback from students: most students want to listen to music, but we don’t allow earbuds or headphones
* Intention is to practice good digital citizenship and put responsibility on students to do the right thing
* Also done to lessen occurrences of confrontational situations asking students to put their cell phones away
* Students have asked, if the trial period goes well, can they use earbuds/headphones—probably not because Dr. Carmichael won’t budge on issue of earbuds (safety concern)

V. School recognition funds

* Voting ended for staff and teachers immediately after winter break
* 121 out of 124 people voted, 77 votes for choice #1 and 44 for choice #2
* We do not know how much money we will receive yet
* SAC gets 5% of total amount
* Staff and teachers feel pride about getting our A

VI. February 2nd, Teacher Inservice Day

* Day for teachers to work on their professional development
* Opportunities at district offices, our school, and schools around the county

VII. Testing review

* 10 weeks of testing this year total
* Starts March 2nd
* FSA replaces FCAT writing test, for 9-11 graders
* Testing schedule will be posted on our website closer to March
* DFAs (District Formative Assessments) replace 9 weeks exams created by teachers

VIII. Needs assessment surveys

* Survey for students, teachers/staff, and parents
* Posted on school’s SAC website
* Open from now until March 31st

Next meeting: February 19th