

GILCHRIST SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: MEDIA CENTER

Attendance							
Teacher/Staff Members		Parent Members		Partner Members		Guests	
Scotty Crowe	X	Jennifer Weaver	X	Bridgette Rankin	P	Brittany Kranert	P
Rosie Wyatt	X	Caroline Weiss	X	Abby Vail	P	Anna Ross	X
Cheryl Mitchell	X	Alyene Calvo	P			Debra Wiggins	X
Diana Haverlah	A	Breana Giblin	X			Debbie Hanson	X
Lynn Hatchett	X	Eva Horton	X			Heather Pearce	X
Kelli Willis	A	Denis Burns	X				
Shannon Bottini	A	Melissa Tate	P				
		Vanessa Bell	P				
		Ali Palmer	A				
		Hillary Speed	P				

X = Present in person, P = Present on phone, A = Absent

Actions:

- 1) At the next SAC meeting, we will discuss the second round of Progress Monitoring, P2.

1) Welcome & Voting – Denis Burns & Debbie Wiggins:

- a. Approval of meeting minutes (Denis):
 - i. Breana Giblin motioned to approve the minutes, Caroline Weiss seconded, all were in favor.
- b. School recognition funds (Debbie – site chair):
 - i. Recognized for being an A school and received funds this year.
 - ii. It was decided through a survey of faculty and staff on how the funds would be distributed through a proposed ballot.
 - iii. Options were 1) to receive bonuses equally across faculty and staff (\$1,600) or to 2) Allocate \$940 to non-instructional and \$1,800 to instructional.
 - iv. Next step is for Faculty and Staff to vote on their choice and funds will be distributed in February.
 - v. No school grades will be earned next year due to the change in standards – baseline year.
 - vi. Question: Why was the line considered between instructional and non-instructional? Several questions were asked of the faculty and staff through surveys on how the money should be divided.
 - vii. Approval: Eva Horton motioned, Alyene Calvo seconded, all were in favor of moving forward with the survey to the Faculty and Staff.

2) PTO President's Message – Caroline Weiss, PTO President:

- a. Accomplishments:
 - i. PTO Soup and Chowder luncheon last week received good comments.
 - ii. Instituting a new thing this year – providing \$5 gift card saying thank you to all teachers.
 - iii. Annual Cookie Exchange at the December faculty meeting to provide teachers with treats.
 - iv. Boosterthon – raised \$61K this year:
 - 1. Will go to fund the outdoor lunch area – putting in pavers and seating walls, building countertops to have food parties, creating an outdoor classroom/area where parents and grandparents can go.
 - 2. Called Grizzly Café for now.
 - 3. Getting bids on the work and want to start in late Spring so families can see how their donations were applied.
 - 4. Donating \$100 to each classroom account.
 - 5. Using some funds for technology updates.
 - 6. Currently assessing how and if we want to continue using the Boosterthon company to manage the event. We currently leverage them for all services, but we raised a total of \$104K and only get to keep \$61K. We are interviewing what other schools do and determining if we should continue with the company or have the event in a different way going forward.
 - v. Volunteer of the Year – Normal process this year. Eva Horton will chair the committee. Nominations have gone out and the deadline is December 14th for the county. We will select a senior youth and an adult from Gilchrist.
 - vi. Silent Auction – We have a PTO member that does this and are identifying ways to have a silent auction, potentially virtual.
 - vii. Scotty Crowe: Thank you, Caroline, for your leadership. The PTO is doing amazing things coming out of COVID. The parents are working hard and bringing us back to pre-COVID days. Having a virtual silent auction opens the option up to more people, and allows us to have it for more than 1 day.

3) School Safety Updates – Cheryl Mitchell:

- a. End of September, faculty was trained active assailant training. Every year we have law enforcement come and train us on what we should do. Very informative. Reminds us that we always have to be diligent for the safety of our students.
- b. Conduct a quarterly safety committee meeting to discuss safety concerns and suggest things that need to be changed. Monitor the safety of the school to maintain precautions. We decide at that meeting when we should do walkthroughs to look for issues (branches, buckles in pavement, tension locks that are broken, etc.) and then Ms. Haverty puts in the work orders. We take safety very seriously.
- c. Have a safety monitor, Mrs. Williams, to ensure doors are locked all day at all times.
- d. Have ladies of the front office who monitor all visitors to the school.

- e. Ms. Lynn, maintenance supervisor, is responsible for things monitoring the outside of the school.
 - f. Drills:
 - i. We do plan to have an unannounced fire drill and safety drill. Idea is to make sure everyone is prepared because you cannot plan for an emergency. We would not do it during K - 1 lunch. We make sure our faculty staff know what to do. During the drills, we monitored the school to make sure we knew where people would exit from, upgrading of safety precautions when all students are in cafeteria.
 - ii. Designated a safe corner - directed towards the stage - in the event of a lockdown, students exit off the stage. Will have 3 more.
 - iii. Will also be having safety drills for before and after programs.
- 4) **DAC Report – Scotty Crowe:** The DAC is the District Advisory Council – a representative from each school in the district is appointed to get district-wide feedback.
- a. The county has partnered with a public bus transportation system for students that need transportation. Students can sign up for families that need it and it's free.
 - b. Hot button issues lately have been about safety and security of our schools.
 - i. An active assailant event simulation was conducted at Chiles. It was a pretty intense event, and they learned a few things they could do differently and what they did well. This type of drill has not been done at the elementary level but there are monthly emergency drills that are set up not as a surprise and we discuss events with children – use them as teachable moments.
 - ii. Have two drills a month now - one has to be some type of active assailant, then we do lock down, lock out, tornado, fire. Each time we do it, they are amazed at how well they follow the instructions. You can hear a pin drop. They know that they need their eyes on the teacher because they are the one that is going to keep them safe. When the intercom comes on, they know to be quiet and to look at the teachers to know what to do. The kids take it seriously. We have to report to the state: which drill, how many minutes, what did we do, did we account for all 853 kids. Each teacher holds up a signal to let them know that all children are accounted for and safe. These are very well-orchestrated events.
 - iii. This time of year, we have done rehearsals but soon we will do unannounced. We need to be able to do it without them knowing - we need to be able to react if there was a situation. Every year these continue to try and improve what we're doing but unfortunately the evolving events move the needle again. Unfortunately, parents may find that we aren't as open, we have more protocols and safety checks.
 - iv. Metrics: based on if it is regulated by the district or state. Every year, we have a safety and security office and update an emergency manual. We have a site plan that includes evacuation routes. We work with law enforcement, outside entities, school safety consultants, and we have created a specific to Gilchrist safety plan for all the types of scenarios.

- v. Metrics are reported back and are required. Marjory Stoneman Douglas moved the needle in the state of Florida and the legislature enacted lots of laws, protocols, and regulations. We used to keep the records but now it all goes to the state. They follow up to make sure we are following the guidelines and trainings. One thing they talk about is that you could make this Fort Knox, but you still have to be prepared that someone is out there that wants to do harm.
- vi. Window tinting: older buildings were completed first and now they will move to the newer buildings. The newer buildings have the new insulated and hurricane glass, the older windows did not. This is just the first phase. They will be coming back and doing more windows as they receive more state school-hardening dollars.
- vii. Another project is that the fencing is not up to the new code. Front parking lot - used to have a 4-foot fence, now you are supposed to have a 6-foot fence.
- viii. Another project is to put in new digital enhanced cameras - we have 26 cameras throughout the school and the idea is to get to 36. Ours are old, grainy and analogue. We want the ones where we can see clearer and zoom in and zoom out.
- ix. Question: as part of lockdown, does the teacher turn off lights? That is part of the protocol. Also, we got brand new door locks and handles this Spring. They used to be locked manually but now they have to be manually unlocked. Doors are locked all days whether there are students in there or not. Through research of the other events, one thing that is true is that they never got access to a locked room. They always go to the unlocked doors. Everyone here that needs one has been given a key and a ring so there is no reason people shouldn't lock doors.
- x. Question: Do they ever consider the fact that the active shooter may have likely participated in the drills? They are aware that this is a possibility. Students are also participating in the drills and when they are the assailant, they know. We only announce certain parts of the school during fire drills going outside. We've learned a lot in the last 10-15 years. We want this to also be a loving, joyful place and try not to make that their focus, anxiety, stress, but we know it's real.
- c. Scotty: our number one priority at school is safety. After that is social-emotional and academic wellbeing.

5) **Progress Monitoring Updates - Anna Ross:** When we met last, we were at the end of the first monitoring window, and we shared the data from PM1 – the baseline data. We are reminding the students that this is an end of the year test. It is a lot to be faced with at the beginning of the year.

- a. Anna covered the Progress Monitoring presentation - A few things to note:
 - i. We don't have the Florida percentile ranks but will share next time.
 - ii. Students performed very well in ELA given that this was the first time they've seen this structure.
 - iii. We had feedback from the math teachers - Math skills that they were exposed to were things they hadn't been taught yet.

- b. Mr. Crowe: We are about to do PM2 – the midyear test. For the next SAC meeting, we will do a comparison on where the students moved for the half of the year. We are looking forward to seeing those scores shifts up. Keep in mind this is a brand-new test, new standards, new method - baseline data.
 - c. K-2 also takes the FAST test, but they take star reading (early literacy). Ms. Ross will bring data to the next one.
 - d. Parents can go in the portal and see how your child did. You should see a year's growth in one year – that's what we're looking for.
 - e. On the teacher end, it shows all the standards and mark which ones are covered and identifies the standards where they are not meeting, and they can give to intervention groups. The layout can be taken to teachers and interventionists to get the students what they need.
 - f. There are many articles regarding schools have lost like a year or two of learning and understanding.
 - g. Question: Does the new curriculum and assessment incorporate the fact that they're behind? We looked at the K-2 data and it appeared that our second graders had the biggest learning loss. They were hit hardest with those foundational skills. It's across the nation. Statistically, when you look at last year's test scores there was a huge dip that is called Learning Loss. Many kids did not make that year's growth for about two years. We now have a Federal Learning Loss Grant and they have allotted a block in 2nd-3rd for phonics to attack some of that. We have a lot of students that this is their first time in physical school this year and some that they haven't been in brick and motor a few years. It's not just academic, it's socialization as well – we are trying to address a lot of those issues.
- 6) **Gilchrist Spotlight: Mental Health – Heather Pearce & Bevin Steverson**: We've been building every year due to COVID, tackling learning loss, knowing that kids are coming to school with different struggles, so we look for those issues and determine how can we support the student. Every situation is unique, so we communicate.
- a. We have a behavior specialist, Karen May, who has social skills experts: teachers identify kids that might have issues getting along with people. They teach them things like: How do you start a conversation; how do you relate to people and communicate – this helps in mental health.
 - b. We have our new horizons counselor, Luke, for two days a week. We have never had that much time before. He works with groups but also has individuals. The curriculum he goes through with the students gives them skills - they enjoy seeing him.
 - c. Ms. Pearce provided updates in a presentation. Highlights:
 - i. Office of Safe Schools - unit that puts together the programs. There is a portal now to make that info accessible.
 - ii. Threat assessment review monthly that covers the threatener and the threatened.
 - iii. Comment from Mr. Crowe: shooters themselves had a history or pattern of mental health challenges. If we can address this early with early intervention, our goal is to help these kids in need/crisis earlier rather than later.

- iv. Determine if something is a transient threat or higher - if someone threatens a kid, their parents are now able to share who threatened your child if it's above transient.
- v. Leon County Schools currently has 157 threat assessments, which is more than we've ever had. It is wonderful to have extra support because we have a lot of extra need - more struggling families and kids. Families are stressed, we are seeing more homeless, and it is showing itself in our students.
- vi. There are two modules in technology time for 4th and 5th about cybersecurity. They teach digital citizenship - not being rude to someone through a text or meme or online. Even with kindergarteners we talk about cyber bullying.
- vii. We are taught non-violent crisis intervention - de-escalation tactics, etc.

7) **Final Questions/Comments – Scotty Crowe:**

- a. Veteran's day parade - we decided to move it instead of cancelling. Our kids have made beautiful signs, the parade was planned, etc.
- b. Recognition – We had some of the highest test scores in the state and are very proud. The state has created another tier of designation for all the high achieving schools called “Schools of Excellence” – They take the top 20% of all A's schools. Gilchrist was named a School of Excellence! It doesn't come with additional funding but we are so proud. Only a few schools earned that.
- c. We are currently in the window for the annual climate survey - we take it very seriously. We get a report and look at every comment and every response. It is a big part of Mr. Crowe's evaluation. Superintendent Hanna takes it very seriously. We invite you to take that survey via the school's website or the district site – it closes Friday.
- d. We are going to get a major renovation this summer! The last wing that has yet to be fully gutted/renovated will be started. It got pushed to the back burner during covid. This is the one wing that has never been renovated and the whole school is getting new carpet.

Denis Burns thanked the group and motioned to adjourn.