

PAC Meeting Minutes
5/22/2025

Attendance:

- PAC Members: Beth Berkowitz, Steve Bennett, Kara Farnham, Abigail Isbell, Tom Lieser, Jr., Mike McCafferty, Maggie Wuellner
- Staff: Vice Principal Beth Mock, Principal Jen Reker-Murphy, Fr. Jamie Weber, Marta Misleh

Absent: Molly Bruegge

Old Business:

A) March Minutes (Maggie Wuellner)

- a. Approved – have already been posted to school website

B) Teacher Attrition (Jen Reker-Murphy)

- a. Still searching for 6th grade LA teacher (previous candidate fell through) – will be posted in school newsletter next week; looking for any leads
- b. Music teacher position is open – Ms. Jacoby leaving for personal reasons
- c. Mrs. Wobser and Mrs. Dorr moving to Kindergarten to backfill Mrs. Brunner and Mrs. Delmedico who are leaving for family reasons/relocation
- d. New teachers hired for 4th grade and 7th/8th grade LA
- e. New teachers will be announced in next week's newsletter

C) Security Officer (Mike McCafferty)

- a. Mike has a lead through Mike Bell, former Cougar football coach and retired CPD
 - i. Mike is one of 5 retired CPG officers rotating for school security at SCDS and has offered to help source potential resource officers through his network
 - ii. Current hourly rates are within the school's budget for the resource officer
 - iii. Mike M. will arrange a meeting with Mike Bell to discuss next steps and will loop in Jen and Beth with updates
- b. Megan Shanahan also has a connection with retirees through the FOP if this does not materialize

New Business:

A) Math Curriculum (Jen Reker-Murphy):

- iReady will be the new math curriculum as previously announced
- New details provided in newsletter this week to clear up some confusion – the iReady math curriculum is completely separate from the iReady diagnostics
- Several curriculums were evaluated based on state standards and a full criteria set – iReady was chosen because it was most comprehensive, includes more topics than current curriculum and includes algebra; Program will be book based (not iPad based)
- Program was being piloted by 5 teachers this school year – feedback was overall positive, only feedback was that the curriculum did not offer enough practice pages so they supplemented
- Success will require 100% buy-in from staff – they will fully migrate to iReady and will no longer use Bright Ideas at all; year 1 will be a learning curve for staff, students and families and will include changes

- Parent info night scheduled for 8/13 and will include iReady staff to talk through program benefits and key changes
- Parent feedback provided that parts of it were repetitive (student was part of a pilot iReady class) – JRM stated that this was because they did not use iReady curriculum last year so had to blend together where the students were with the iReady program and they anticipate this being the case for this coming year as well – will see full benefits of iReady curriculum starting in year 2
- We cannot see benchmarking of SMS students vs. other schools in HSPT. The AoC does not want these stats shared or posted to limit competition amongst schools. When SMS has asked local HS for feedback, they have been told SMS kids are doing great and “keep doing what you’re doing”.

B) Supplemental Reading & Math Support (Jen Reker-Murphy)

- Finance Commission did not overtly reject the ask for additional reading and math support. They asked JRM to ensure due diligence was done in maximizing current resourcing before adding additional teachers. Several changes are being made for next school year and then will re-evaluate with Finance Commission
- Reading Support:
 - i. Kathy Greiner will be providing reading support for grades 4-8 in addition to teaching computer class; students who have cleared the “Reading Improvement Plan” will still receive support to ensure they remain on track
 1. End of year iReady results will help guide resourcing – individual vs. group support will be determined based on needs for each grade level
 2. Schedule still be worked out to accommodate this – will be completed by end of summer
 3. Kathy has a Masters in Education and has been providing informal supplemental reading support for several years
 - ii. Teachers are trained to monitor for potential learning disabilities and will refer to the school Psychologist as needed; Sometimes these do not materialize until students are older
- Math Support – looking at solutions to improve both in-school and before or after school support
 - i. In-School Support:
 1. CPS support this school year was not ideal; New resource will be provided for next school year
 2. CPS resource will be able to support K – 8 but cannot teach algebra
 3. Allocation of resourcing against students needed additional support vs. those needing enrichment will be dependent on the resource hours, student needs/testing results, etc.
 - ii. Before/After School Support:
 1. Currently evaluating an after-school math “club” for students who need additional support and also for enrichment – will be open to all students
 2. Teachers are interested in participating but still working through details – i.e. meeting cadence, cost, before vs. after school, etc.
 - a. Scholarships will be available if needed
 3. Teachers will be committed and will require them to invest time in building lesson plans and meeting before/after school – need families to be committed as well

4. Suggestion was made to do a basic survey to evaluate interest before investing too many resources in building out the program

C) Enrollment Update (Jen Reker-Murphy)

- School enrollment projected to be at 512 students next year – first time over 500 in recent history
- Waitlists are in place grades K, 1, 3 and 7
- All other grades near capacity besides 8th
- Majority of families leaving are due to physical moves/relocations

D) Teacher Communication Handbook Update (Jen Reker-Murphy)

- There's a need to create boundaries on teacher communication to limit "always on" expectations via text and e-mail
- PAC fully supports Jen in adding language to the handbook to support setting communication boundaries for teachers and staff