



Three Oaks Middle School (TOMS)
School Advisory Council (SAC) Minutes
April 27, 2016

School Website
<http://okm.leeschools.net>


Members Present: Lindsay Campbell, Richard Tanner, Mary Stead, Roger Stead, Carolyn Fischer, Jody Radditz, Carol Mount, Christine Goll, and Mike Carson

The meeting was held at the South Regional Library and was called to order 5:01 p.m. The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion was made by Mary Stead and seconded by Lindsay Campbell. The minutes were approved.

Administrative Update: Mr. Carson provided the administrative update. The student enrollment for next year is now at 996, with 298 sixth grade students. The sixth grade class is full with 143 students on the waiting list for next year. Some parents are getting their second or third choice. For the 2015/2016 school year the district raised our sixth grade gifted capacity from 22 to 44 seats, with the understanding that the next year we would have 44 seats for sixth grade and also 44 seats for seventh grade. We were just recently informed that our sixth grade gifted capacity for the 2016/2017 has now been set back at 22 seats. This is very unfortunate that the school was not notified earlier in the student assignment process that our gifted capacity for sixth grade was dropping back to 22 seats. There is a concern that many parents who were expecting to get a gifted seat at Three Oaks Middle School have had their children assigned to another south zone school and had they left their child's educational plan as part time gifted, they may have had a better opportunity to be placed at Three Oaks. Additionally, if parents have their child's plan written as part time gifted services, and then want to change it later to full time, they are required to go back through the student assignment process. This is extremely frustrating for everyone involved.

Mr. Carson reviewed the student master schedule for next year. The district office is requiring that teachers have a planning period every day. TOMS's teachers have a 75 minute planning period every other day on the current four by four block schedule. Students have periods one, three, five, and seven on white days and periods two, four, six, and eight on blue days. The Three Oaks administration and leadership team have reviewed the various scheduling options: teachers teaching six out of seven periods daily, seven out of eight periods daily, and the eight out of ten block schedule, which is also referred to as a five by five block. Similar to the four by four, the five by five block would have periods one, three, five, seven, and nine on one day and periods two, four, six, eight, and ten, the next day. The eight out of ten block schedule provides 66 minute class periods with math, as well as linked reading/language arts classes every day. With the five by five block schedule, more elective classes will be required. While students enjoy elective classes, having more elective classes is not necessarily beneficial for students' academic growth. The plan is therefore to add an additional sixth grade "elective" with a focus on vocabulary usage, grammar, and spelling skills, to have the seventh grade students take civics every day, and to have the eighth grade students take science every day. Linking the eighth grade science classes will allow more time for students to do labs. Students will still receive three electives over the ten period schedule. While the 2016/2017 school capacity allows for an increase of over forty students, the current budget results in the loss of one teaching unit, which will cause class sizes to increase slightly. One District Resource Allocation (DRA) is equal to approximately \$65,000. The budget is always a challenge and the school administration will work to find the best solution looking at what is best for the students. In the 2016/2017 school year all students will have the same math teacher every day and the same reading/language arts teacher every day.

In Japan, students go to school six days per week. Schools there also have all Japanese children. When we look at our schools, we see less time in the classroom and we see children coming from all different cultures.

Three Oaks Middle will try to keep the morning start time the same for 2016/2017, but hopefully change the end time from 3:50 to 4:00 p.m. This will allow more academic time for students within the school day, as we have parents who do not value homework and who do not support it.

Mr. Carson presented information about the new AVID program which will be a new elective class offered next year for seventh grade students. Mentors will work with students in the areas where they struggle. Parents may learn more about the AVID program through an online video. The AVID concept will start with a small group of students and build across the entire school. Students will be able to use the learned strategies in all of their classes. *For more information about the AVID program go to www.AVID.com*

Kudos to Our Teachers: Mr. Jason Laux has been awarded the Gifted Teacher of the Year by the School District of Lee County. Five Three Oaks Middle teachers have been recognized as being top performing teachers by the Florida DOE. The teachers are Mr. Mullings, Mrs. Brock, Ms. Scoppettuolo, Mr. O'Bannon, and Mrs. Dineen.

Library Resources: Mrs. Jody Radditz provided an overview of the Lee County Library Resources. The library has programs for everyone including a program where children can "read down" their library fines. There is a great selection of resource books, Accelerated Reading resources, and the new Sunshine State books. All a child needs is an active library card. The library also has many online resources. You just need to go to the library home page. You can also subscribe to online newsletters. There are online homework resources available, books on CD, books that can now be downloaded, and a testing and educational reference center. Parents and students are encouraged to stop by the library or check out the Lee County Library System website at www.leelibrary.net

Parent/Community Comments: Parents shared concerns about the Parentlink grading system. Concern is that assignments are being entered on the system prior to the due date and this is giving a skewed view of student grades.

The grading system was reviewed: "NG" stands for Not Graded. "Z" stands for zero, student was absent, but can get credit when the assignment is turned in. And "0" which means the student had the opportunity to complete the assignment, but did not turn in the work and does not get any credit.

It was noted that if only one assignment is assigned and no additional assignments, it is nearly impossible for a student to bring up a grade. More grades are needed for each category. Mr. Carson commented that now that there is immediate feedback, parents are seeing what the students' grades are in real time. This is different than in the past, when grades did not go out for parents to see until interim or final report card time. It was noted that some teachers have put in a "0" temporarily, so that students can see what their grade will be if they don't turn in their assignments.

Business Comments: Mrs. Fischer shared that the Estero Historical Society had a fantastic essay contest this year. She was able to make contact with some of the elementary leaders at the awards program and hopes the contest will have more entries next year. Luis Hernandez-Ulloa, a student from Three Oaks Middle, was the top essay winner. TOMS had five of the six winners. Next year the essay contest will be for schools in the greater Estero area.

A motion was made by Mr. Tanner to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mrs. Stead. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



**The next SAC meeting will be on May 25, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.
In the Three Oaks Middle School Media Center**

