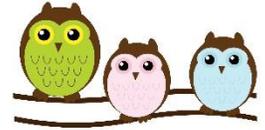




**THREE OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL (TOMS)**  
School Advisory Council (SAC) Minutes  
October 28, 2015



The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Members and Guests Present:** Mary Stead, Carol Mount, Richard Tanner, Michael Carson, Kelly Lavis, Celine Talavera, Rick Barta, Lillian Rossi, Terry Sutton, Debbie Fite, Christine Goll, Bob Scoppettuolo, Carolyn Fischer, Belinda Huber, April McGarry, Tom Horvath, Judy Behr, Kathy Popple, Lindsay Campbell, Kevin Mullings, and Christy Moore

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed and approved as corrected. Motion to accept was made by Kelly Lavis and seconded by Mary Stead.

**Algebra Nation:** Eighth grade math teacher, Kevin Mullings, provided an overview of the Algebra Nation program as requested by Mr. Horvath at the September SAC meeting. Mr. Mullings discussed how the program is utilized as part of the Algebra Honors classes at Three Oaks Middle School. Mr. Mullings explained that each student has received a copy of the Algebra Nation book along with the algebra textbook. Algebra Nation is just one of several resources used by the eighth grade algebra teachers. Other resources include, Google classroom, Slides and Docs, Desmos.com graphing calculator, Khan Academy, as well as the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Algebra I textbook and online interactive material. Algebra Nation and Khan Academy are benefactors of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and are excellent math resources. All resources are aligned with the Florida standards. Algebra Nation is a “backwards” design program which is used to help students master the standards needed to pass the algebra end of course (EOC) exam. Algebra Nation was used more at the start of the school year because the algebra textbooks had not yet been received. Taking notes from the Algebra Nation videos was the best method to teach the basic concepts. In Algebra Nation, students should be working in the Ma F Standards section (MAFS). Students are able to download information from this site. The videos should take between 10 and 26 minutes. There was one video that was 33 minutes in length. Students are to view the videos assigned, which asks questions from the unit and also provides the answers. During the last couple of weeks students have been assigned an average of three videos per week. As the students go further into the year; there may be more or less assignments based on the need. In a flipped classroom model, if students master an area, they move on. Right now, classes are right on track for where they should be. Khan Academy is being used for bell work and the students appear to enjoy the program. Students are learning algebra basics along with eighth grade math concepts. Mrs. Lindsay Campbell, a seventh grade math teacher, stated that she uses Khan Academy along with the McGraw Hill – ALEKS program which is being used by the sixth and seventh grade teachers. Mrs. Goll commented that she likes the Algebra Nation program, but had a concern about the amount of classroom instruction verses the video instruction. Mrs. Behr expressed similar concerns. Mr. Mullings explained that it is extremely helpful for students to have the background information when they come into the classroom. Algebra Nation is meant to be a supplement and the material is then presented again in the classroom. Mr. Horvath shared that students had to watch videos that were redundant and time consuming if they had already mastered the material. Mr. Mullings assured that this has been taken into consideration. He noted that some students are better at taking notes to summarize the topic and that the instruction and assignments were provided to meet the needs of all of the students in the class. This was especially true at the beginning of the school year when the textbooks were not here. Mr. Mullings went on to discuss how Three Oaks teachers meet regularly in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) by department and align their lesson plans. When needed for mastery, the topics and the materials are sometimes presented a second time using the HMH textbook, Khan Academy, and Algebra Nation. This is the model that students will use in high school and in college. Algebra is the only class at Three Oaks Middle that is taught on the high school level. This class is also an honors class. Students will receive high school credit for Algebra Honors and the material is not being “watered down” for middle school students. The first quarter of this high school class is the most challenging for many students. This class has a high degree of rigor and the material is

being presented differently than how the students are accustomed to learning. It often takes time for students to make this adjustment.

Celine Talavera was welcomed as a new student SAC member. The council members asked her how she felt about the Algebra Nation program. Miss Talavera stated that she likes the Algebra Nation program better than the Khan Academy. She added that some students like the Khan Academy program better. Mr. Horvath, a parent inquired about the teacher recommendation for his child's math level this year. Mr. Carson stated that teachers provide an algebra readiness test, adding that the rigor for the algebra course has changed in recent years. Teachers make recommendations based on class grades, readiness tests, and standardized test scores, however the most recent student standardized test scores were not available prior to scheduling the current school year. In determining placement, you do not want a child to struggle, nor do you want them to need to repeat a course. Mr. Carson added that teacher recommendations along with parental requests are taken into consideration for every student. Mr. Horvath stated that there was frustration in his child's math placement recommendation for this year and that the criteria that was used was flawed and went by a placement test and fifth and sixth grade material that his child did not remember. Mrs. Rossi explained the process that she uses for scheduling and that waivers are sometimes requested by parents, but that she schedules student's classes considering both the teacher and the parent requests. Mrs. Mary Stead, a former Three Oaks Middle algebra teacher and math department head, stated that for high school recommendations, she had teachers consider the last two year's test scores, how students performed in class, the algebra readiness test, basic skills mastery, and communications with parents. She added that the district math curriculum office has presented a lot of challenges and has outlined the standards that are to be taught along with which materials to present. The HMH algebra textbook should be used as a resource; along with Algebra Nation, which is a great supplement, but which should not replace classroom instruction.

**Admin Update:** Mr. Carson stated that the Chromebooks started out to be overwhelming for many, but everyone seems to have adjusted. The school enrollment is now at 980 students. The TOMS Time intervention program is working well. Students have the opportunity to work on homework and teachers have started sending students to work with their other teachers in areas in which they are struggling. With the concern that student's book bags were overloaded, the STAR data folders will now only be used on Mondays and Tuesdays, so that students will not need to carry them around all week. A new Castle program is being implemented, this program will provide data for teachers to monitor student's mastery of the standards and where they need additional help moving forward.

**Calendar Committee:** Three Oaks Middle teacher, Mrs. Fite, is serving on the district calendar committee and the committee is currently working on the 2016-2017 school instructional calendar. Mr. Tanner provided an overview of the draft 2016-2017 instructional calendar. The school board will be voting on the calendar at the November 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The first day for students is slated for August 10, 2016 which is a Wednesday. The first semester will end prior to the winter break which will allow students to take their midterms before the break. The first semester will end December 23<sup>rd</sup>, but the winter break will still provide two weeks off for students. The school year will end prior to Memorial Day 2017.

**District Advisory Council (DAC):** Dr. Kelly Lavis introduced a new business SAC member, Dr. Terry Sutton. Dr. Lavis provided an overview of the most recent DAC meeting, including Mr. Mora's presentation, consideration of changes to student assignment, as well as a legislative update. The complete minutes from the October DAC meeting and the 2015-2016 DAC meeting schedule can be found on the School District website at <http://www.leeschools.net/district-advisory-committee> . There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Monday, November 9, 2015 in the district board room to discuss legislative priorities. This is an important meeting for parents and community members to attend.

**Business/Community/Parent Comments:** Mr. Carson welcomed Mrs. Carolyn Fischer, from the Estero Historic Society. Mrs. Fischer presented information about their upcoming Veteran's Day Event on November 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cottage at Estero Community Park off of Corkscrew Road. *For more information call 239-272-1911.* The historic society will also sponsor an essay contest this year.

Mrs. Rossi is looking for volunteers for the first quarter honor roll. The honor roll will be on November 12<sup>th</sup>, with the sixth grade assembly at 1:30 p.m. Someone is needed to pick up pizza from the Fiddlestick's Papa Johns' location.

Mr. Tanner shared a concern regarding some issues with the recent fundraisers with money not being turned in and some concerns with the accounting. Will need to look into getting more assistance for future fundraisers.

Mr. Horvath shared a concern that when he talked to students and parents they have shared with him that they have submitted assignments on their Chromebooks that appear to go through, but that the assignment is not there and that students are being penalized. Mr. Carson suggested sending out a student survey regarding Chromebook issues students may be experiencing.

Dr. Lavis added that when students are working on Google documents, there is an auto save feature.

Dr. Lavis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Goll seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

## Public Meetings

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### **School District Advisory Council host Community Meeting to Discuss Legislative Priorities**

Board Room, 01-3200

Monday, Nov 9, 2015 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

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Your presence ensures our local delegates understand the importance of our priorities for this upcoming session.

You can view the District legislative priorities at the below link:

<http://www.leeschools.net/legislative-priorities>

\*\*Public meetings may run past the time indicated

**Next SAC Meeting: January 27, 2016, 8:30 a.m.**



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

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