THREE OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL (TOMS)
School Advisory Council (SAC) Minutes
January 23, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members and Guests Present: Mary Stead, Michael Carson, Lori Reichart, Erin Tucker, Christy Moore, Lillian Rossi, Kelly Powell, Lindsay Pennington, Bob Scoppettuolo, Trent Brown, Shanai Hill, Amelia Cepeda

Approve Minutes: The minutes were reviewed and approved. A motion to approve was made by Bob Scoppettuolo and seconded by Erin Tucker.

Administrative Update:

School Improvement Plan Midyear Review

Attendance Goal was to reduce absences by 10%. This has proven to be a challenge. There are some homeless students living out of the zone and still need to ride a bus, which makes for a long bus ride and sometimes students not coming to school. We have been working with the social worker on this concern. There are also students who are homeless and living in hotels. Calls are being made home to students with attendance concerns.

Another attendance concern is the number of students who are being released before the end of the school day. If these absences are not for excused reasons, three early sign-outs are considered an absence from school.

Behavior Aspect – TOMS is doing well reducing suspensions. Referral rates are staying the course.

Academic Goals – After reviewing the current state of student scores and adding accelerated points, the school is on track to be an A School. The 20-minute period of reading daily is making a difference. AR goals have moved up significantly. Question – Is AR reading time increasing STAR scores? STAR scores are aligned with FSA and use a lot of critical reading skills, inferencing and comprehension. Reading teachers are being cautious that students are reading AR at the correct reading level. With the STAR testing the rigor increases each quarter. The best STAR scores are at the beginning of the year and tend to drop around the end of the second quarter. Then students tend to show better work by sometime in the third quarter.

There are some concerns expressed that an undue focus is on the students at the bottom making gains. The reading coach shared that the teachers working with the advanced students, making 4's and 5's, are doing a fantastic job.

Family and Community Involvement Award: The members of the TOMS SAC nominated the Village of Estero Education Initiative for the Family and Community Involvement Award. This includes the Village of Estero Junior Achievement and AVID Tutoring Programs at TOMS. Mrs. Mount made a motion to go forward with the nomination and Mrs. Reichart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

District Advisory Council (DAC) Update: Mrs. Cepeda provided the DAC update. A new board member, Gwynetta S. Gittens, will be attending DAC this year and provided the board update. The next Board open meeting is scheduled on January 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. There were recent rumors that the district was losing confidence in the superintendent and some were suggesting replacing him. A presentation was made by district staff on differentiation within the standards. K-5 parents are happy with instruction, with 25 students, this works great. There is a need to consider how this works with middle and high school teachers who have 125 or more students. Parents shared concerns that the students scoring at the top are not allowed to move on faster, and that more support is needed for the middle and high-end group. Whole grade acceleration is the best method to enhance, but concern is that many of these students are not socially ready.

Mr. Carson shared that the district math program is on the accelerated plan, with advanced students in sixth grade, taking seventh grade advanced math and taking pre-algebra in seventh grade. These students will take algebra honors in eighth grade. Last year, ninety-nine% of the TOMS eighth grade students in algebra honors passed the class. Mrs. Rossi noted that 10 eighth grade students were moved out of algebra this year, as they were not socially ready. The administration also noted that students do need to be challenged. If students are receiving a 100% on every assignment, they are not being challenged.

Mr. Carson thanked Mrs. Cepeda for representing Three Oaks Middle at the District Advisory Council meetings.

Business/Community/Parent/Teacher Comments: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.