



THREE OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL (TOMS)

School Advisory Council (SAC) Minutes

September 23, 2020



Members Present: Mason Clark, Bob Scoppettuolo, Christy Moore, Carol Mount, Gloria Toro, Trent Brown, Mary Stead, Shanai Hill, Edward Lorenzini, Victoria Frehe-Torres, Kristine Philipppines, and Jeff Bronson

Guests: Lindsey Roache, Rick Barta, Yasmin Villalobis, and Chris Patricca

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m.

Support Staff Membership: All TOMS support staff members have now returned to work. Two support staff members serve on SAC. There were no additional support staff nominations. Carol Mount and Gloria Tora will represent TOMS as approved by the support staff members.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program: Ms. Elizabeth Brown gave an overview of the AVID Program. Students are able to apply for this program near the end of their sixth grade year. AVID is a program for students performing in the middle range, who have the drive and desire to achieve, but who may need support and motivation. Students in AVID learn organizational and note taking skills, with a focus on planning for college and selecting a college program. Eight grade AVID students focus on career options. Students receive extra help and support whenever they need it. Mr. Barta shared that all of the south area high schools offer an AVID program.

Review of SAC Minutes: The August minutes were reviewed. Mr. Scoppettuolo made the motion to approve and Mr. Bronson seconded the motion.

Election of SAC Positions: Ms. Mount nominated Dr. Trent Brown, for SAC Chair, which was seconded by Mr. Lorenzini. Dr. Clark nominated Edward Lorenzini for Vice Chair, and Ms. Mount seconded the motion. Carol Mount was nominated as the SAC Secretary by Mr. Lorenzini and seconded by Ms. Stead. SAC members voted unanimously on the three positions.

Review of SAC Make-up: The council members need to work between now and the October meeting to find additional members to represent the Hispanic community to be in compliance with state SAC membership requirements.

Review of SAC bylaws: SAC bylaws were reviewed and suggestions made for changes. One was to include the student council president. Outdated information, such as a reference to Adequate Yearly Progress, which is no longer monitored, should be removed. SAC membership that included a "PTO representative" should be deleted and replaced with "parents". Terms of membership should be added. Principal is statutory, parent would be for three years or until the parent no longer has a child at TOMS, teachers would serve for three years, with an option to end service, and the student council member would serve one year. Community members would be by annual appointment. Change wording of chairman and vice chairman, to chair and vice chair. A recommendation was made to eliminate the position of treasurer. Further review of the bylaws will be made and reviewed at the next meeting.

Needs assessment: This is starting out as a very unique school year with teachers managing multiple platforms, particularly for the exploratory classes and with some students moving from one instructional model to another. Parents were asked how their students were doing. Many students and their parents are experiencing a lot of anxiety. Everyone is working hard to get back to normal. Parents commented that communications have been excellent and expressed their gratitude. Parents would like to see more opportunities for connections, but understand that it is hard to connect right now. A concern was expressed that the Hispanic population at TOMS, which is about 30% of families, may have a more limited access to school information. Will work to connect more, especially with new parents and inspire parents to be vigilant in connecting their students with services. The remote distance learning makes the typical start of the school year “getting to know you” activities hard to do. More outreach to the Hispanic population is needed. Dr. Frehe-Torres and Dr. Clark plan to meet to discuss ideas for greater school to home connections. Another concern was the amount of screen time between school and leisure time for students in the Lee Home Connect program. A parent asked about the AR reading program, and how many students enjoy having a book to read. Dr. Clark shared that the library is closed because porous materials cannot be sanitized and the school has worked to reduce the number of papers that go home and need to be returned to the school. Dr. Clark stated that safety trumps what the school would like to be doing. Teachers commented that they were amazed at how well everyone has adapted to the safety procedures this year. Everyone has their masks on when they come on campus and come into the classroom. Students are taken outside during the day to take off their masks, spread out, and take time to breathe.

The hardest part of Lee Home Connect classes for teachers is the challenge of interacting with students. The students who have returned to face to face learning are thrilled to be back in the classroom and to see their friends. Students in Lee Home Connect are having little interaction, missing after school activities, and need much more socialization.

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion to end the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



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