

MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL SAC MINUTES

Date: August 29, 2024.

Opening: 5:03 PM

Present: Jared Aida, Terrie Blackwell, Cassie Booth, Shatarie Johnson, Rebecca Acevedo Kenderdine, Irene Kornelly, Edward Mouchette, Julie Ott, Sharon Simpson-Dogon, Velvet Stepanek, Alyssa Webb, Jackie Wick, Michael Williams
WebEx Attendees: Michael Bibbs, Shelley Bibbs, Shay Dabney,

Agenda Presentation: Mr. Smith presented the agenda

Approval of Minutes: May 9 minutes were approved by Shay Dabney and Mr. Smith on May 10, 2024

Business from Previous Meeting: There was nothing held over from the May 9 meeting.

New Business:

1. After self-introduction of attendees, the opening school calendar was made available for independent perusal, and important dates were highlighted.
2. Velvet Stepanek presented an overview of the District Accountability Committee (DAC) and the School Accountability Committees' (SAC) existence, with an emphasis on the rationale for composition of SACs. Parents should comprise the majority of seats. She acknowledged the vast community representation on Mitchell's SAC. Mr. Smith invited suggestions for parental recruitment. Possibilities were proposed by various attendees and included: having a SAC information table at every family engagement event, including SAC information in weekly and monthly online communications from the school, scheduling SAC meetings when parents are likely to attend another activity at Mitchell in order to consolidate their visits to the school, having a SAC presence at community events (the upcoming Hispanic Community Health Fair, for instance). Mr. Mouchette shared that some parents choose to convey their input about the school to him, having him be their spokesperson rather than attending themselves.
3. Timing of the SAC was perceived as an impediment to parental participation. Mr. Smith provided the rationale for current second Thursday and was open to suggestions. Thursday seemed to remain the best day of the week. No decision was made about moving the meeting to the first or the fourth Thursday. There was a suggestion to survey the parents at-large. The consensus among the parents who attended was that there will be no perfect time, so we need to be open to all who can attend, even if they are late.
4. Mitchell's performance on state metrics slipped, putting the school back on Turnaround Status, despite the school's making significant improvements in many areas. Those improvements are seen in the SRP, which is on the MHS website and supports the school's remaining on Innovation Status. The state's data will be public on August 30.
5. Mr. Smith presented Mitchell's Major Improvement Strategies (MIS) for 2024. MIS 1 focuses on "best first instruction" and the coaching cycles in which educators participate is a key component. Although MHS has the most instructional coaches to support its students and teachers, an instructional gap remains because the cadre of teachers and educational support personnel isn't yet complete. Questions surfaced about the district's efforts to close that gap. MIS 2 involves increasing healthy community engagement.

Although students feel safe at school, there remains insecurity between school and home. Efforts continue to be made to close that gap. MIS 3 pertains to the dropout rate, which decreased last year and is expected to be on the downward trend again this year. The students and teachers are focused on students' achieving Bs or better.

6. Staffing needs returned to the discussion. Mr. Smith highlighted the incentive pay offered and the Stability Initiative Resource Grant. The school is staffed at 94% (an improvement over previous years) and enjoys an 80% staff retention rate. Staffing shortages exist in multilingual education, special education, math, and counseling. Attendees were interested to know the district's level of commitment to fully supporting MHS in its staffing. The question also came about how much the Palmer High School renovation will detract important attention from Mitchell and its continued needs.
7. Organic conversation turned to student enrollment because the district's promised media campaign was to focus on the southeast sector, which includes Mitchell and its feeders. We look forward to seeing that campaign in full effect. One of the school's highlights is the 15 concurrent enrollment courses offered. Mr. Williams suggested a resurrection of the successful Student-to-Student program that existed in bygone years. We are glad to have the liaison from Peterson Space Force Base on our SAC because Mitchell is the home school for Peterson high-schoolers; however, the number of students that we see from that base is down. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Wick will work to have all elements in place for Mitchell to be a Purple Star School.
8. All are invited to the opening ceremony of Mitchell's new athletic field. It will be on September 17. Food trucks will be on site at 4:30, with the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6:45 and a soccer match under the lights at 7:00.

Adjournment: Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Next SAC meeting: Thursday, September, 12, 2024.