

MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL SAC MINUTES

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024

Opening: 5:05 PM

Present: Joe Aida, Delia Armstrong-Busby, Michael Bibbs, Shelley Bibbs, Terrie Blackwell, Robert Elder, Shatarie Johnson, Valerie Jordan, Rebecca Kenderine, Irene Kornelly, George Smith, Edward Mouchette

Absent: Cassie Booth, Shay Dabney, Julie Ott, Alyssa Webb, Jackie Wick, Michael Williams

Agenda Presentation: Mr. Smith presented the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the August 29 meeting were approved by SAC Chairman Michael Bibbs on August 30.

Business from Previous Meeting:

1. Discussion continued about changing the SAC meeting day/time and how to increase parental involvement. Mr. Smith will send out a specific e-mail survey about School Accountability Committee, Mrs. Kenderine will provide a flyer at the Hispanic Resource event occurring at the Holley Library Branch. Mr. Aida volunteered to be a contact point for parents' input. Mr. Mouchette reminded us that we should promote SAC at any event where parents might be. The September 17 athletic field dedication would be an excellent time for SAC representation. Mr. Smith indicated that he can make limited fund available for flyers.

New Business:

1. Mr. Smith presented at the September 11 School Board meeting because Mitchell High School slipped back into Turnaround status. Tonight, he delivered a shortened version of that formal presentation. The theme of among schools in the southeast sector is that from elementary on up, students are underperforming. Staff has to contend with students' trauma, poverty, minority issues, and other factors that are outside of each school's control. Academic achievement is compounded by some of those factors, but students proved that they are growing by district measures; however, they are lagging per the state's criteria. This year's 9th-graders tested at the 6th-grade in math and in reading. Mitchell is required to get students to pre-SAT ability in five months. We need more support in order to make that possible.
Attendance is consistently high (85%), suspensions/expulsions are down, in-school suspension is up. Staff retention is at 88%. We aren't fully staffed, especially in MLL (CLDE teachers). We would see an increase in performance were MLL and SPED fully staffed with highly qualified personnel. Creative solutions are being employed (J1 visas, retirees, contracted counselors) to close the staffing gap.
Any growth goal on the SIP was exceeded in math and English/language arts. Mitchell was the top secondary school on the district's MGP in ELL and fourth in math. Staff experienced growth in following through with the intended success criteria. On the Five Essentials report, we missed hitting our mark because of parents' non-participation. We have 98% student participation on testing days, and that is the one area of green on the Preliminary School Performance Framework. Increasing slightly in subgroup performance would move us out of turnaround status. MHS needs to shrink the bottom percentage and grow the top percentage simultaneously in a school year. Students are growing (from 70-75% on time for graduation) because of increasing better grades. Dropout rate has declined, matriculation has improved, and workforce readiness has

improved.

Mr. Smith referenced the work of John Hattie, whose research is informing some of strategies employed at Mitchell. Among those is the implementation of instructional coaching, which is occurring thanks to Title 1 funds, and it will result in improved student performance. What's next for Mitchell, and what will be coming from the state?

2. Planetarium discussion — Valerie Jordan, responding to a question from Mrs. Johnson, shared that programming has been developed for elementary, middle school, and secondary in conjunction with the Space Foundation. Opportunities for educators are also being designed. Connection with the CTE program is also considered. The main goal for the first year is to service Mitchell students. All work on the planetarium hasn't been completed, so implementation of program is months away.
3. Mr. Smith shared about the many capital improvements at Mitchell.
4. Mr. Mouchette reported that he and Mr. Bibbs met and have determined that we need to be more active and moving forward. Because of the school's student population, they suggest Mitchell's becoming the multicultural high school in the district, diminishing the need to have CLDE staff spread throughout the district.
That segued to Mrs. Johnson's addressing the need for adults to model professional behavior and language among each other. From that, the expectation can flow to the students to elevate their own interaction.
Mr. Bibbs discussed the need for greater community involvement — SAC, parents, alumni, students, mayor.
Mr. Aria asked about the procedure for parents to volunteer on campus. Mr. Smith expressed that it is a simple process of submitting a form and being approved. Greater engagement is welcomed.
Mrs. Johnson encourages involving students at the SAC meetings.
Mrs. Jordan expanded on the idea student involvement by suggesting inviting those in the new student leadership group (something separate from student council) to become involved with SAC.
5. All are invited to e-mail Mr. Bibbs or Mr. Mouchette any topic that we might want to address future SAC meetings. We are asked to do that at least two weeks prior to an upcoming SAC meeting.

Adjournment: 6:35 P.M.

Next SAC meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2020