

**Nova Eisenhower Elementary
School Advisory Council**

**Minutes
April 14, 2008**

Members present: A. Brooks, J. Brown, K. Cohn, P. Cook, S. Dunn, I. Hamilton, D. Howard, L. Junck, C. Lesser, A. McKenzie, D. Morrison, L. Nestor (SAF Chair), D. Smith, S. Tanenhaus, S. Walters

Excused absences: D. Fote, V. Lopez, W. Valle

Also present: Mr. D. Jenkins, Ms. H. Kwak, Ms. L. Slick

- Ms. Dunn called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.
- Minutes of the 12/10/07 meeting were reviewed. It was noted that Ms. Schroeder was listed as having an excused absence. She is a new business partner but not a voting member of the SAC; therefore, her absence does not have to be recorded. Ms. Cohn moved to accept the minutes as corrected and Mr. Morrison seconded. Unanimous approval.
- Minutes of the 3/10/08 meeting were reviewed. It was noted that Ms. Kwak was present at the meeting, although not listed. Ms. Dunn moved to accept the minutes as corrected and Ms. Nestor seconded. Unanimous approval.
- Ms. Cohn reviewed the SAC by-laws with us, as amended and ratified.
 - We shall elect our officers for a one-year term. The officers shall be elected and installed annually at our September meeting (the first meeting of the school year).
 - The slate will be presented at the first general meeting of the PTA, which will occur prior to the first meeting of the SAC. (The first SAC meeting of 2008-09 will take place on 9/8/08.)
- We reviewed other business that will occur at the first general PTA meeting of the 2008-09 school year. The SIP (School Improvement Plan) will be presented.
- Ms. Cohn provided all SAC members with a copy of the Parliamentary Motions Guide based on Robert's Rules of Order. It was agreed that while not strictly observed, we generally adhere to the Rules, to be certain that everyone has an opportunity to be heard without any confusion.
- As part of our ongoing training for SAC, Mr. Jenkins presented the Broward County Public Schools Administrative Discipline Matrix (Elementary level). He explained that the purpose of the Discipline Matrix is to assure that discipline is handled in the same manner in all of the schools across the county. It also provides for a record that follows the child, if he/she transfers to another school in the county.
- Ms. Dunn distributed copies of our 2007-08 SIP so we could review them in preparation for developing next year's SIP. We're unable to work on next year's SIP until this year's test scores come in.
 - Ms. Lesser talked about the new initiative we'll need to identify on next year's SIP as one of the requirements for 5-Star. This year's initiative was writing and two of the things we did were our Barnes & Noble night and writing to the Cerebral Palsy Center. For next year, we need to have a new initiative and have development of the idea come from one or more of our business partners.
 - We can have a one-time event or an on-going program, provided there is a direct correlation between our initiative and improvement in our students' grades.
 - One theme that we all agreed upon is "going green," as part of a science initiative. We can incorporate math, art, and other academic areas, as well. We can work on different aspects of "going green" with each of our partners – Publix, Waste Management, FAU, etc. Our PTA can be called upon to help too. We might have our students plant a vegetable garden – to use the vegetables to eat, to sell the vegetables at a "Farmer's Market" – as part of the initiative.

- Ms. Lesser will discuss these ideas for next year's initiative with the Science Committee and ask them to help with ways in which we can bring our partners into the plans.
- We discussed buying canvas shopping bags to sell and weaving or crocheting with plastic shopping bags.
- Ms. Cooper's class made a recycling bin entirely from recycled materials and they may win a prize provided by Channel 6.
- Ms. Heredia is trying to design a green classroom for next year. An idea to go with this might be to have the students writing about the difference between the green and non-green classrooms.
- We might approach Home Depot to become a business partner next year to help with this initiative.
- Ms. Dunn reminded us that we need to wait to see our test results before we can finalize the subject that we'll choose for next year's initiative and we agreed that based on the test results, we will be able to "tweak" our plans to make them match our students' needs. For example, if third graders need to work on reading, they can focus on reading about "going green."

Open Agenda:

- Ms. Lesser reported on the Needs Assessment she gave to all the teachers. She told us that she asked them what they are most proud of academically, what needs to be improved upon academically, and what non-academic issue needs to be improved. She asked all the National Board Certified teachers to do a technology-based Needs Assessment – they trained all the other teachers this year on the teacher workdays – and based on what they come up with, they will plan for further teacher training.
- Ms. Lesser brought copies of the Climate Survey. They are for the parents, teachers, and students to complete. Some of the items on the students' survey are, "My teachers believe I can succeed; my teachers answer all of my questions; my teachers treat me with fairness; I'm proud of my school; my school is in good condition; I have trouble learning because there are too many students in my classroom." Answers can be, "Strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree, or don't know." Ms. Lesser said she and Mr. Jenkins use these, as well as the parent and staff surveys, to see overall what concerns there may be.
- Ms. Lesser announced that because we were a Glides school, we are getting twenty new laptops. These will be used to make the first and second grade carts whole, so the students can use them for, among other things, CCC – the technology-based program stressing reading and math. She also told us that PTA is donating money to be used for more technology.
- Ms. Lesser reported that our teachers are becoming technology savvy. She used Ms. Slick's technological growth since participating in the Glides program as an example of the growth all of our teachers are experiencing.
- A question was asked about getting a new marquee for our school. Ms. Lesser said that it will only be replaced if it is a victim of a hurricane or other natural disaster.
- Mr. Jenkins gave special thanks to Ms. Dunn for her work on the 5-Star, as well as everyone else who contributed, including Ms. Cohn, Ms. Tanenhaus, and Ms. Lesser.
- Mr. Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brown seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Tanenhaus