

**Nova Eisenhower Elementary
School Advisory Council**

**Minutes
December 10, 2007**

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

Excused absences: D. Howard

Also present: Ms. D. Barney, Mr. D. Jenkins, Ms. H. Kwak, Ms. D. Moore, Ms. A. Quintal, Ms. L. Slick

- Ms. Dunn called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.
- Minutes of the 11/19/07 meeting were reviewed. Corrections to be made: Add Ms. Kastner to teachers working to attain National Board Certification; delete d in the spelling of Ms. Sigmon's name; and change wording regarding "The Novazine" to read that planning for it needs to start in the summer. Ms. Valle moved to accept the minutes as corrected and Ms. Smith seconded. Unanimous approval.
- Ms. Lesser discussed the second BAT that began today. Results will be available in January. A difference in the BAT this time is that students who scored a 4 or 5 on the FCAT last year were given a letter from the Superintendent that said they did not have to take this BAT, unless parents requested that their child take the BAT. Ms. Lesser expressed concern because our teachers use these results to evaluate the students' progress.
- Ms. Lesser discussed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). By the year 2014, it's expected that 100% of every category of students will make progress. There are problems with this concerning some of the categories. One example is ESOL students who have not yet become fluent enough in English to pass the test but are required to take it and would prevent us from making AYP.
- As part of our ongoing training for SAC, Ms. Dunn discussed 5-Star, Business Partners and School Initiatives. She acknowledged Ms. Fote's long-time relationship with our school. She reported that Ms. Leslie Schroeder has been invited to join SAC as a new business partner and she has accepted. Ms. Dunn explained the 5-Star requirement that SAC and business partners work together to create an original project for our students' participation. Ms. Fote said she had an idea for a project that she would be able to present to us in the near future.
 - We discussed the requirements for being a business partner – time and/or money to support school programs.
 - Our business partners are not required to come only from the local neighborhood because Nova Center schools are not local community schools.
 - We need to work on parent programming. We discussed having a program during FCAT camp on Saturdays.
 - Kindergarten students will be planting trees from Ms. Schroeder's nursery for Earth Day. This can be added to our 5-Star this year.
 - Ms. Dunn reminded us that volunteers must record their hours for 5-Star.
 - Ms. Dunn pointed out to us what a difficult job it is to prepare the 5-Star application and asked for a big round of applause for Mr. Jenkins, who has worked so hard to get us our 5-Star every year.
- Ms. Slick reported on the GLIDES project and presentation. She explained how it started with teacher training; they developed an essential question; the students researched different parts of that question; and created a multi-media presentation. Each fifth grade class worked on different processes that

shaped the earth. The project will be presented to the principals' meeting and will be posted on our website.

- Ms. Lesser reported on the Rainforest Café night and Chorus performance. The turnout was huge and the evening was a great success. Mr. Richardson and the students did a great job and it was wonderful to have so many teachers in the audience, as well as the parents.

Open Agenda:

- Ms. Dunn explained some of the responsibilities of SAC – to plan staff/faculty training, to advise on various issues in the school, to be the “voice” of the school. She explained that SAC is a very important part of the SIP. She asked if there were any questions or concerns. Ms. Lesser encouraged us to bring our concerns to SAC meetings also. She told us that in January we would be discussing the BAT results.
- Ms. Nestor announced that the SAC photo for the yearbook would be taken at our January meeting.
- Ms. Lesser thanked everyone for our participation in SAC. She gave us gifts of beautifully packaged home-baked cookies.
- We talked further about the GLIDES project. Ms. Slick described the range of computer skills among the teachers and the range of abilities among the students, as well. She talked about the way students rose to the occasion, worked together, and solved problems. Ms. Lesser spoke about how much she enjoyed seeing the process as it took place. Ms. McKenzie said, as a teacher, how proud she was to see students she'd known in third grade who were too afraid to speak in class or who had behavior problems, and how they talked and worked together and did their parts in the project.
- Ms. Dunn moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cohn seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Tanenhaus