

**Nova Eisenhower Elementary
School Advisory Council**

**Minutes
September 10, 2007**

Members present: A. Brooks, J. Brown, K. Cohn, P. Cook, S. Dunn, D. Fote, I. Hamilton, D. Howard, L. Junck, C. Lesser, V. Lopez, A. McKenzie, D. Smith, S. Tanenhaus, W. Valle

Excused absence: L. Nestor (SAF Chair)

Also present: Mr. D. Jenkins, Doloria Barney, Clarissa Coddington, Maria Ennella, Hollie Kwak, Sherry McKeven, Debbie Moore, Devon Morrison, Yamila Quiles, Anna Quintal, Fabian Redler, Maribel Rivera, Suzanne Shaw, Laura Slick, Sherrine Walters

- Ms. Dunn called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. She welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the new year and we all introduced ourselves.
- Minutes of the 5/14/07 meeting were not available for review.
- Ms. Cohn discussed the SAC composition. We need to have representation for ESOL, ESE, and the community. We need to have more parents than teachers and staff, and our composition must reflect the demographics of the school, as they appear in our 20-day count. SAC is state-mandated, with very specific rules that must be followed exactly, in order to receive our 5-star award.
- Mr. Jenkins stated the importance of attendance at SAC meetings. At every meeting, at least 80% of our members must be present. Individual members must also attend no less than 80% of our meetings.
- Ms. Lesser explained the 5-star award a little further. She discussed the different categories in which we must qualify for the award, such as parent input and participation in SAC, community service, and volunteerism, again stating that the guidelines must be followed exactly in order to receive the award.
- Ms. Dunn explained that SAC (School Advisory Council) is responsible for preparation and review of the SIP (School Improvement Plan).
- We set the calendar for our 2007-08 SAC meetings, which usually occur on the second Monday of each month, except when holidays or school closings cause a conflict. The dates selected were: 9/10 (today), 10/8, 11/19, 12/10/07, 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, and 5/12/08. Ms. Dunn requested that if anyone cannot attend a meeting, they contact us ahead of time so that their absence can be excused; there is a difference between excused and unexcused absences in the bylaws.
- Ms. Lesser explained the SIP (School Improvement Plan), which is formulated by our needs, as per our testing data. For the second year in a row, our SIP was accepted by the area school improvement office with no corrections required. She reviewed our 2007-2008 SIP with us, which includes our goals of reading, math, writing, and science. She explained how the test scores are used to form each year's new goals. She also reminded us that we are still using the Science IDEAS program for reading, which is benefiting our children in both areas. She also discussed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).
- Without materials from the district, review of our SAC bylaws was postponed until our next meeting.
- We discussed our accountability funds for 2007-08.
 - Ms. Lesser reminded us that previously, money went to FCAT Camp, to teachers' materials and salary for camp; money also went to two former interns, to give additional help to some of our students to prepare for FCATs, as well as Partners in Print, and last year, Partners in Science.

- This year, accountability funds will go to FCAT Camp again. There will be nine sessions this year.
- Some funds will go to Partners in Math (K-2nd grade), and to a new program for 4th graders in writing that Ms. Lesser is calling the Sixers Club. Starting in January, until the FCAT, children will be able to come before school or after school to work on their writing skills.
- There will be a new writing (journalism) club for 3rd and 4th graders, who will edit, publish, and illustrate the writing to prompts of K-5, to produce a school newspaper.
- We discussed the new PE/recess (called SPA – Structured Physical Activity), which is now a daily requirement.
- Regarding A+ Money, Ms. Lesser said she hadn't received any information on that yet, so discussion was postponed to our next meeting.
 - Ms. Dunn asked us to consider whether two of our assistants, who are paid by the district, rather than the school, should be included as non-instructional staff to receive a share of our A+ Money. We voted in favor of including them this year.

Open Agenda:

- Ms. Fote announced that she is looking for loving homes for kittens that have been rescued by Advantage Uniforms.
- Ms. Dunn asked everyone to be sure that they were signed in for this meeting, and asked that new members give us their names, phone numbers, and email addresses.
- Ms. Tanenhaus announced that Ms. Cohn has stayed on with our SAC as co-chair for this year, despite the fact that her son has moved up to middle school. Ms. Tanenhaus also pointed out that this is Ms. Cohn's 4th year as co-chair and the 4th year for herself as secretary. She stressed the need for other members of SAC to step up into leadership roles for next year.
- Ms. Dunn moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tanenhaus seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Tanenhaus