

FBMS Student Advisory Council
October 11, 2017 Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

In attendance: Dr. Mazzella, Melissa Bell, Lola Jones, Maggie Schweitzer, Angela Aarons, Kaitlyn Aarons, Mitchell Aarons, Leslie Gillette, Cadie Gillette, Linda Gallo, Amelia Gallo, Janice Mote, Robyn Melton, Katie Tricomi, Josie Barber.

1. Approve minutes from the September 20, 2017 meeting:

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. The date of the Homecoming dance was corrected to 10/13/17. Motion to approve the amended minutes was made and accepted – corrected minutes will be forwarded to Melissa Bell.

2. Financial Update - \$7,526.64:

No change at this time.

3. New Business:

A. Vote on School Improvement Plan:

Copies of the 2017-218 SIP were distributed for review. Per Dr. Mazzella, changes from the 2016-17 plan include implementation of new strategies (reading program, one-to-one, AVID, PBIS), new criteria for math and reading instruction, and updates to SAC member names/department chairs/team leads/calendar dates. Motion to approve the 2017-18 SIP was made and accepted. A handout from the District School Improvement Team Meeting was distributed for those in attendance to read, outlining the purpose and makeup of SAC.

4. Old Business:

Dr. Mazzella asked for feedback regarding the one-to-one Chromebook devices. Several issues were presented, including:

- a) No SD card or USB access – Dr. Mazzella stated that this feature had been disabled at the county level, because any information contained on a USB becomes the responsibility of the school if any content is found to be inappropriate.
- b) Bookmarking access – This feature had been disabled at the county level, but has been corrected with the availability of a bookmarking app.
- c) No printing capability – Students should be able to share info with teachers to print from teacher portals in classrooms, or have access to library printers when needed. SAC student members stated that they had no access to the library yesterday due to 8th grade PSAT testing, and there are some faculty members who will not allow students to print during their class period. There was also discussion about accessibility of air print options, although this would present difficulty for the Chromebook to have multiple printer access from class to class.

In general, the response to the Chromebooks was positive. Currently only one student at FBMS does not have internet access at home, but Comcast has provided at least 16 students with home internet access for a reduced monthly rate.

5. Other:

Mrs. Bell stated that some parents and students are still raising concerns about the amount of homework assigned during the week and across weekends. Per Dr. Mazzella, homework times should be 15-20 minutes per class or approximately 1½ hours total except for the advanced math classes (Gossett, Whitaker). Dr. Mazzella also stated that if students are routinely exceeding the 1½ hour homework limit on a regular basis, parents should speak directly with him regarding which classes/teachers are requiring extra work times. Suggestions to alleviate the daily workload and help students with time management included designating one day each week for various subjects to administer tests/quizzes, and the use of a physical or Google calendar to plan daily/weekly homework and project goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.