



Savannah Arts Academy School Council Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2016

I. Call to order

Julie Allen called to order the regular meeting of the School Council at 8:05am on November 16, 2016

II. Roll call

The following Council Members were present: Julie Allen, Anna Bliss, Wendy Marshall, Peter Muller, Michael Nestor, Ned Rinalducci, Tony Royek, Jennifer Vacala and Stephen Williams. Guests in attendance included: Cindy Hicks, Brandon Tucker and Ardis Wood.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items this month; September 2016 minutes were approved electronically in September.

IV. Open issues

a) Facilities:

- i. **Lifebridge Church:** This agenda item was not discussed since Gif Lockley was unable to attend the meeting. Julie will follow up with him separately to make sure Lifebridge is in compliance and on schedule with returning storage areas and other facility usage for SAA school use.
- ii. **ESPLOST II:** The roof project has a completion date of December 31, 2017. The windows project has a tentative completion date of September, 2017. Completion dates are subject to conditions such as inclement weather which may cause delay. At the last School Board meeting (November), the School Board approved a request made by Vanessa Kaigler to allocate additional funding to complete the windows project using ESPLOST II funds rather than waiting for ESPLOST III. A copy of the Budget Transfer request was distributed to Council Members. The project will be bid and completed under one scope of work. Please thank the Facilities department and your elected School Board official for their work on this matter.

- iii. **ESPLOST III:** ESPLOST III was approved during the November public election. The next step in the process is to develop the overall timeline based on the facilities condition assessment. The data from the assessment will determine the priority and timeline for projects. School based administration will have input in the decision-making process for school-specific projects. Once the timeline has been established and approved by the School Board (possibly as soon as the December or January meeting), we will work with Ms. Kaigler and the Facilities Department to develop a schedule and plan for SAA projects, including opportunities for input.

- b) **Admissions Process:** At the recommendation of SAA, Academic Affairs has agreed to increase academic criteria for SAA's 9th grade class; going forward, the academic criteria for admissions will be the same as that for Garrison's 8th grade class. The only other change to this year's admissions process is that all paperwork is being centralized at the CTAE offices; parents with students applying to any of the specialty schools will bring the necessary documentation to Woodville Tompkins rather than to the school they are applying to. Thus, students who are applying to more than one specialty program will only have to drop off paper work at one, single, location rather than at multiple schools. We anticipate some hiccups with this due to the volume of student applicants. We will get feedback and evaluate next spring or fall.

- c) **Hiring Policies – 1st vs. 10th day Enrollment:** We have still not received the 1st day numbers to be able to compare data against the 10th day. Since the hiring policy was not an issue previously (and was only an issue this year due to the superintendent wanting to ensure the district could hold true to promised salary increases), and given the recent announcement of the superintendent's retirement, we are deciding not to pursue this now. Should we receive the numbers, a committee will evaluate the data, but we will not follow up on prior requests for the information. If it becomes an issue with the next superintendent, we will reassess at that time.

- d) **School Communications:** Intermezzo has resumed, giving parents another opportunity to subscribe. Parents have been encouraged to make sure their contact information is up to date in PowerSchool, with instructions on how to do so. Parents can update contact info in PowerSchool at any time. The district will be requesting parents to update their information in Servos in January. It is important for parents to recognize that email lists come from all three platforms (Intermezzo, PowerSchool and Servos) and it is their responsibility to make sure their contact information is current to receive school and district communications.

V. New business

- a) **Media Center:** Wendy Marshall presented plans for SAA's media center based on the learning commons model. High school libraries/media centers have not changed much over time and yet technology has significantly changed how information is accessed, impacting student needs and use of the facility. Students need better access to digital resources, quick and instant access to information, and user-friendly spaces (both real and virtual). The media center will move to a more contemporary, comfortable, collaborative and creative environment. For example, furniture will be on wheels, allowing for easy reconfiguration to accommodate student and classroom needs. Other aspects include charging stations, partitioned walls, print stations, movable white boards, collaboration tables with monitors. There are also possibilities for a student broadcast room and a café. The district is responsible for the physical space (walls, windows, doors, electrical outlets, lighting, etc.). We are in partnership with Dell and other vendors for the furniture and technology.
- b) **End of Year Testing:** Cindy Hicks explained the end of year testing process, outlining changes in recent years. Except for AP exams, all testing is now completed online, with test scores coming back in approximately 3 days. GMAS (State testing) now counts for 20% of the course grade. The State has just passed a ruling for dual enrollment such that the college grade may be accepted in lieu of the GMAS. GMAS affects approximately 9 courses. Non-GMAS classes take the district SLO (district testing) exams. It is optional for teachers to use end of year SLO scores as a test grade; it is not mandated as 20% of the course grade. There is generally a 2-week window for students to make up missed tests. SAA does its best to coordinate scheduling of end of year arts exhibitions and performances but some events are out of our control. The band performance in Forsyth Park takes place on May 5, 2017 which is a Friday night. SAA Film Fest always falls during exams. Most arts faculty members are sensitive to the test schedules and do not schedule the most challenging work during those times.
- c) **Ardsley Park Concerns:** Ardis Wood requested the removal of the yearbook banner on the parking lot fences, in compliance with the County Ordinance.

VI. Adjournment

Julie Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:13 am.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Allen

Minutes were approved by electronic vote November 28, 2016.