

Southwest Middle School Council | MINUTES

Meeting date | time **10/2/2017 8:00 AM** | Meeting location **SWMS Drama Room**

Attendees: (List Name)

Chairperson	
Principal	Craig Daughtry
Teachers	Laura Greene (teacher representative), Patrick Kilpatrick (teacher representative), Natalie Immings (Academic Coach)
Parents	Eva Yvette Torres, Michelle Gilmore
Business/Community Partners	John Bush (Youth Intercept, Boy Scouts, Helping Hands of Savannah)

Guest and others attending

Larry Lower, District #6 School Board Member	

AGENDA TOPICS

TOPIC	DISCUSSION and Summary*
Opening: Pledge Allegiance/Inspiration	8:07am
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	n/a
OLD BUSINESS:	n/a
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:	<p>SWMS took 15 students to Macon for a Math Competition. 12 students qualified for the regional competition. There will be another new competition in Savannah. Those who qualified already do not need to compete again. We travelled with West Chatham. Coastal and STEM also took students. Some parents came along.</p> <p>We may duplicate this here with other local middle schools or within the building for GMAS prep. Armstrong and Georgia Southern also host competitions and we will participate in those.</p> <p>Review of School Data/Information *We are an IB school and our focus is being global minded. We have our re-authorization visit next week from October 11th – 13th. They will speak with all teachers and selected parents and students. This is our opportunity to share the good things happening at SWMS. Mr. Daughtry shares about IB via the Parent Newsletter (ensures that all council members are receiving the newsletter). Our partner school is Windsor Forest High School – MYP is 6th through 10th grade and then students can choose to enter the DP programme. The DP programme is the highest diploma programme in the world. Our other focus is world languages and we offer Spanish, French and Chinese.</p>

*Our other goal is to move our students academically. On GMAS we made gains in three of the four content areas. We just completed our first round of MAP testing which is a requirement for promotion. Those details are released to parents via the email.

*We would like to move our science scores by 10 points. Our other main goal is to get all students to proficiency. We encourage students to use Moby Max, Khan Academy, Read Theory. Please provide us feedback on student interest and growth in response to these so we know if these are worth the investment or if we need to find other resources.

*We have three goals: Reading Strategies, Student Engagement and Parental Involvement. At the PTSA meeting and State of the Schools event we did not have enough parents to create a PTSA officer panel. We will be sending home the PTSA forms where the parents can send back the enrollment with payment. Once we have members we can then establish our PTSA officers/board. Last year worked well with fundraisers and the Valentine's Dance. They also helped with painting the building by donating paint.

*We need parents!

What's New at SWMS:

New Parent Facilitator – Ms. Grant. She is full time.
New Military Counselor – Ms. Taylor

New School Activities:

*Advisement
*Cheerleading
*8th Grade Community Service Project for IB fulfillment. This will culminate in an IB day for display. Mr. Bush added that students can be involved with their projects and shared about different upcoming through Helping Hands of Savannah. Assistant Principal, Mr. Brown and counselor Ms. Gilford will be in touch as they are facilitating the 8th grade projects. Ms. Greene also shared how her Genius Hour group is focused on community service. Her group is currently collecting bottled water and they will also look for other projects. Mr. Bush shared that they are currently collecting water and non-perishables to send to Puerto Rico. He also shared that the local animal shelter is trying to convert from a kill shelter to a rehab/adoption shelter and they are looking for volunteers to groom and play with animals.

Ms. Torres also shared that St. Francis Cabrini church gives out fresh food/vegetables in conjunction with Second Harvest and they look for volunteers.

Mr. Daughtry asked if it is acceptable to share council members' contact information with each other so that we can connect for service projects, etc.

*New PBIS House System – across grade levels and discipline. It embraces our IB Learner Profile. We have competitions based on student behavior choices and participation which results in rewards. Our plan is that Fridays students may wear their house shirt. This is a way to promote school pride. That is the other reason we painted the school.

*We have also been working to change the climate and perception of SWMS. We want students to like coming to school and not feel like it is a prison or full of chaos. A lot of the online information from places like GreatSchools.org is very outdated. We ask parents to update with positive feedback.

*Bullying is still a significant issue impacting middle school students. With our fundraiser in August we are going to bring in a BMX Bike group to perform and then do an anti-bullying rally. We are also addressing with peer mediation.

	<p>*We have begun Motivational Monday with quick videos to challenge and motivate students in being kind and positive. Today is a presentation by Kid President. We want to have messages that empower them and get them to think as well as help them start their week off right as some kids come from rough places at home. This is another way we are working to change our culture.</p> <p>*We are asking for the council’s input on how to grow our culture.</p> <p>*Our schoolwide service project this month focuses on cancer with fundraising and awareness on various cancers via Light the Night and Susan G. Komen. We will also end the month with Red Ribbon Awareness week.</p> <p>Looking Ahead:</p> <p>*Mr. Kilpatrick suggested putting out a calendar for PTSA meetings. The challenge is that the board must choose those dates. Tina Kelly, from the district, will be working to help us with this and our Parent Facilitator is also reaching out to parents.</p> <p>Looking ahead – what do we want to see two or three years from now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kilpatrick – We’ve made some progress in the last few years, most significantly last year. No ideas at the moment, but the House system seems to be full of potential. He shared a story of someone outside our school who had a positive experience with a House system. As we continue there will be more buy-in. • Ms. Gilmore shared how she had the House system and how motivating it was to build comradery. • Ms. Torres shared about “winning the stick” and holding it for the week. Mr. Daughtry had thought about a flag. We will have to look into this. • Mr. Daughtry shared that this needs to be inspired by and run by the teachers for it to work. We are sending teachers to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta and they are creative and full of energy. It will be a grassroots effort which is more successful. We will have Ms. Blocker and that team get in contact with Ms. Gilmore to learn more about her experience with a House system. • Mr. Bush shared about having sections on the Spirit Stick and each House could put their logo on a section each week or month they won the stick. At the end of the year you can see which House dominated. • Genius Hour – we are working on the process and kids have a wide variety of options. Kids are across grade levels in the Genius Hour groups. We still need to work on the group sign up process to ensure kids want to be in the group. Students who are not interested – names can be given to Ms. Dorsey to find an alternative group.
<p>OTHER REPORTS:</p>	
<p>NEW BUSINESS:</p>	<p>Introduction of Members:</p> <p>*New business partner, Mr. Bush, works with three community organizations. Ms. Greene asked about Helping Hands of Savannah and may make a link with her Genius Hour group as their focus is service.</p> <p>*Confirms which members have attended training with district lead, Mr. McMillan.</p> <p>*Mr. Daughtry explains the purpose of the council as it impacts the school and gives different groups a voice to share their perspective to make the school a better place.</p> <p>*Last year Ms. Robinson served as the council president. One of the parents must serve as the president. Perhaps one of the teachers can serve as the secretary. We will discuss these roles near the end to allow time for Ms. Robinson to arrive.</p>

	<p>*Individuals took turns introduce selves and relationship to the school. *Mr. Daughtry will gather and communicate out the contact information for the council members.</p> <p>Nomination / Selection of School Council Officers – <i>tabled until next meeting as not all parents were in attendance.</i></p> <p>President: Vice President: Secretary</p>		
<i>SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:</i>	Mr. Lower shared that our ideas are a great start and this is the voice of the school. Our school and council will be as good as we make it.		
<i>UPCOMING EVENTS:</i>	<p>2017 – 2018 Council Meeting Dates October 2, 2017 December 4, 2017 February 5, 2018 April 2, 2018</p> <p>Discussion on these dates and the meeting times. The dates stand.</p> <p>The Title I Parent meeting is October 4th at either 10am or 6pm.</p>		
<i>Other:</i>	At the next council meeting we will begin with officer selection. We will also give an update on the IB site visit.		
<i>NEXT MEETING DATE:</i>	December 4, 2018	<i>ADJOURNED:</i>	9:03am

*Attached additional information to any agenda item as necessary