

SAC Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2011

SAC Members Present:

Tracie Casserly, SAC Chair  
Rebecca Chavez, Student  
Foli Desravines, Student  
Brandon Gorassini, Student  
David Helper, Community Rep.  
Christina Hoy, Parent  
Chrisy Huegele, Parent  
Karen James, Teacher  
Kelly Srot, Student

Denise Jennings, Parent  
James McGonigle, Community Rep.  
Matthew Miller, Student  
Nereida Miller, SAF Chair, IZ Rep.  
Linda Pegnatore, BTU Steward  
Markia Ramsey, Student  
Carol Reynolds-Srot, Parent  
Amy Tupper, Gifted Rep.  
Taylor White, Student

SAC Guests Present:

Martha Arthur, SLP  
Debra Johnson, Asst. Principal  
Christine Henschel, Asst. Principal  
Allison Abad, Student  
Anthony Acierno, Teacher

Robin Snitehurst, Teacher  
Alyce Culpepper, Teacher  
Kelly Grady, Teacher  
Debra McGoldrick, Teacher

Ms. Casserly called the meeting to order at 3 pm.

Ms. Casserly disseminated the minutes from the May SAC meeting and moved that the minutes be approved. Dr. Pegnatore seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Several guests presented proposals for the use of our SAC Accountability Funds. There is currently \$22,116.00 in our SAC Accountability Fund Account. We will also be getting SAC Accountability Funds for 2011-2012 in the amount of \$5 per student around November. (*Amendment to these minutes: At the time of this meeting on 9/27/11, Ms. Casserly stated that this amount did NOT include the SAC Accountability Funds for 2011-2012. However, that was an error. The \$22,116.00 in the SAC Accountability fund DID INCLUDE the Accountability Funds for 2011-2012, as they were deposited in August 2011.*)

**Proposal # 1** was presented by Ms. Snitehurst and Ms. McGoldrick, English Teachers and also with contributing statements from Mr. Acierno, English Teacher, Alyce Culpepper, Magnet Coordinator, and Brandon Gorassini, Student.

Their proposal was for SAC to pay for an online program called Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com has an invoice cost of \$4,006.08. (*Amendment to these minutes: The invoice amount for Turnitin.com ended up being lower than was stated at this meeting. The new, lower invoice amount is \$3,158.40.*) They stated that SPHS has been using

this program for years, with the Magnet program paying for it. However, with the decrease in funds for the Magnet program, they are no longer able to pay for it. Turnitin.com helps teachers and students alike identify, avoid, and understand plagiarism. Turnitin.com is not just a way to “catch” plagiarism but a pertinent tool for teaching academic writing. It will only help students in both high school and college.

Turnitin.com helps teachers:

- Prevent plagiarism
- Discuss academic integrity with students
- Teach techniques for paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting
- Teach students to cite sources properly
- Build better writing skills in students

Turnitin.com helps students:

- Become better writers and researchers.
- Produce original and analytically competitive writing.
- Learn self-confidence in writing.

Finally, most colleges and universities have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to plagiarism. We are doing our students at South Plantation a service by teaching them now that plagiarism comes to no good.

**Proposal # 2** was presented by Kelly Grady, Reading Coach, and Mr. Acierno, English Teacher. This proposal was for a Safety Net Tutoring program, including after school tutoring and ACT test preparation on selected Saturdays. The total amount projected for this proposal is \$11,200.

The after school tutoring would entail paying 3 teachers \$25 for one hour each, for 2 days a week, for 20 weeks from November - April ( \$9,000 to pay the teachers). It also provides a supply amount of \$500, which would provide binders, paper, etc. for the teachers to monitor the students they are tutoring. ( total of \$9,500 )

The ACT test preparation would be offered in the Fall and in the Spring, using the Princeton Review ACT Preparation Program. The ACT test prep. will be a 3 day training offered on 3 consecutive Saturdays for 4 hours each day, from 8 am until 12 noon. They are requesting funding for 2 Princeton Review trained teachers to instruct in the areas of Math and Reading, to be paid \$25 per hour. ( 1,200 to pay the teachers). This also provides a supply amount of \$500, which would include books, binders, paper, etc. ( total of \$1,700)

Proposal #2 would cost \$9,500 for the after school tutoring and \$1,700 for the ACT test prep., for a total of \$11,200.

**Proposal # 3** was presented by Kelly Grady, Reading Coach. This proposal is for a Bubble Buddies Mentor Program.

This program will provide an adult mentor for the students in our lowest 30% who must show learning gains in both reading and math. These students will be selected based on their previous year FCAT scores. They will work on a weekly basis with their assigned mentors to receive support, motivation, and encouragement to be successful in all academi pursuits here at South Plantation. This program is asking for \$1,650 to pay for incentives ( bubble gum, tootsie rolls, etc.), a kick off party, supplies for mentors ( including binders, dividers, paper, etc.), a celebration of success party, and other incentives to motivate these lowest 30% students. ( total of \$1,650 )

The total cost of Proposals 1, 2, and 3 would be \$16,856.80. *( Amendment to these minutes: With the lower invoice for the Turnitin.com, the total is now \$16,008.40.)*

Ms. Casserly moved that we call for an oral vote on all 3 proposals. A “yes” vote would mean “yes” to all 3 proposals. A “no” vote would mean “no” to all 3 proposals. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor, and an oral vote was conducted.

All SAC members present voted “yes” to the 3 proposals. The vote was unanimous and all 3 proposals will be implemented utilizing our SAC Accountability Funds.

Ms. Henschel gave an update on our school’s Differentiated Accountability (D.A. )Status. This year, we are a “Correct II” school on the D.A. matrix. We will have 3 visits from the county IRT ( Instructional Review Team). Our first visit was on September 26. They will return on October 17 and December 15. They visit classrooms, meet with Department Heads, Coaches and Administration, and recommend Action Steps to be completed so that our school can and will meet with success. Ms. Henschel stated that , for the most part, their feedback was positive and that there are a few small issues we need to work on. Ms. Casserly stated that she will email the Action Plan to the SAC members so that they can see the recommendations from the IRT visit on September 26.

The School Improvement Plan ( SIP ) has been completed and submitted to the District, who will submit it to the State by September 30. Our BAT 1 Data should be back by the October SAC meeting and we will revisit our SIP once our BAT 1 Data is in.

It was decided to table the discussion about any new waivers until the October meeting.

There were 2 nominations for the SAC Employee of the Month: Dustin Major for his hard work as textbook coordinator and Debra McGoldrick for her hard work both during and after school with her English students.

Mr. Major was nominated by Carol Reynolds-Srot, who writes:

I would like to nominate Mr. Dustin Major for SAC employee of the month for September. I spent quite a lot of hours working on the textbook scanning process last

school year and this year when school opened. And, Mr. Major did a great (first-time) job of putting it all together. He was organized (even had lists of what classes would show up when) and kept us very busy. The good thing was that we got it done in approximately 3 or 4 days instead of over a two-week period. And while I love volunteering and helping out at South, I hate sitting around and twiddling my thumbs when I come in here to volunteer (often having carved out the time to be here). I felt my time was well spent and the process, even tho a bit maddening and sweat-producing at times, was fast and efficient.

*Ms. McGoldrick was nominated by Dr. Culpepper, who writes:*

I would like to nominate Debra Hulka-McGoldrick who spends hours beyond the school day grading papers and writing recommendations for her students. Additionally she works with the debate students after school and helps the Fairchild Challenge club with the dramatic option (and even performed as the teacher representative at Fairchild Gardens in Miami. Her unique classroom activities such as the Shakespeare Festival encompasses all students.

It was decided that Dustin Major would be the August SAC E.O.M. and Debra McGoldrick would be the September SAC E.O.M.

In new business, Ms. Huegele suggested that our students need some direction and instruction in learning the proper way to study. She also stated that Pinnacle only works when teachers are entering grades in a timely manner.

Ms. Tupper asked why there was no lunch break on Early Release Days. She stated that it is too long of a time for students to go without eating and without using the restroom. Ms. Henschel stated that students simply need to ask their teacher for a pass to the restroom. Ms. Tupper stated that many teachers give students extra credit at the end of the quarter if they do not use the restroom all quarter. This is not allowed. Students should be able to use the restroom without fear of losing out on extra credit. It was also suggested that, on Early Release Days, teachers allow students to eat a small snack during class.

Ms. Huegele and Ms. Jennings spoke about bus issues. The buses are sitting outside of our school for 15 to 20 minutes, as they arrive before 6:45 am and the gates are not opened until 7:00 am to allow the buses in. They also spoke about Magnet Bus issues after school. They were directed to contact Dr. Escabi regarding bus issues, as he is the A.P. in charge of buses.

Mr. McConigle wanted to thank South Plantation for hosted the Key Club kickoff for the county's Key Club students. There were 550 students present for this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.