# Sullivan Middle School

# School lmprovement Council

# Meeting

# NOTES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:30 – 6:30 pm Zoom Meeting Link

Members present: Kelly Scott (parent), Laura Lawson (parent), Dr. Juan Roldan (Principal), Darlene Del Vecchio (Teacher), Mary Ann Kennedy (parent), Leigh Ann Estes (parent), Jessica Adamson (parent), Donna Mack (teacher), Holly Stuart (teacher), Starr Lee (Teacher), Alice Davis (parent), Mona Letigio (Parent), Montrio Belton (Parent), Shanna Hannibal (Asst Principal), Gwendolyn Lindsey(Asst Principal) and Graham Thomas (Asst Principal)

Mrs. Kelly Scott called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

First order of business was to approve the last meeting notes in December 2020.

Kelly welcomed everyone back and to the new year, 2021.

**School News:** Dr. Roldan shared that the first semester is coming to a close and they are busy making plans and adjustments due to pandemic and classroom space plans for 2nd semester. The district may go back to face-to-face all week instead of A/B days and schedules will have to accommodate that change.

He then asked each Assistant Principal to give a short report on their grade level status.

**6th grade and AP Hannibal went first:**

* 6th grade is going very well, especially smaller class sizes
* Discipline issues are zero
* Students all very quiet
* Communication has been great with parents and school
* Ms. DelVecchio gave shout out to 6th grade science fair participants
* 6th grade is planning end of sem celebration

**7th grade and AP Gwendolyn Lindsey:**

* Great start
* Discipline is down
* Energetic students and 2/3 are onsite
* Lots of Science, hands on activities and Soc Studies projects
* ELA doing read alouds
* Math is coming along and showing academic growth

**8th grade and AP Graham Thomas:**

* Very low discipline issues
* Smaller numbers giving a chance for teachers/staff to talk more with all the students and not just ones that visit for discipline issues
* Academic growth is progressing-good quality instruction
* Academic Teams are competing, Beta Club starting up
* Athletic teams cancelled was disappointing

**Transformational Coach/Math, Ms. Del Vecchio reported:**

* Even lowest performers are still growing academically per MAPs scores
* Said students are not falling behind
* Many are growing at good pace

Dr. Roldan then mentioned they miss virtual academy students on campus and hope to have something at the end of the school year if it is safe to include them and have them on campus, especially 8th graders who will graduate this year.

An SIC member asked “how is growth measured?” Dr. Roldan’s response was that there are only 2 informal ways- MAPs (Measure of Academic Performance) for ELA and Math. The district nor state uses anything for Science and Social Studies. For Literacy, ELA is a great predictor. MAPs uses a RIT score, which helps to predict growth and then they can measure where the student is in that range of growth.

He continued to say that face-to-face is much better to be able to attain growth. We are all looking forward to having everyone back on campus.

He also mentioned again the issue that some students are not showing up for class online on the days they are to check in and some virtual students are not showing in class. They have requested assistance from parents and caregivers but situation is not getting much better.

**Action Item to the SIC:** Help us brainstorm or find ways to improve this situation please.

Some clarifying questions from the SIC were which students are not attending? Virtual or the f2f? The answer was that it is a mix of both.

Another question to staff: why do you think they are not attending? Answer was that either an access issue or there is no accountability for the students who are home alone doing virtual.

Another question to staff: understanding that there are a lot of factors, how do we as an SIC help out with this issue?

A last question on another subject from a parent on SIC was about athletics and participation. He asked why decisions are made to stop athletics in middle school are influenced by high school rules, although middle school doesn’t adhere to high school rules and why was middle school athletics cancelled but high school was not?

And regarding travelling for athletics, why were some schools allowed to travel on buses to away games and some were not?

Answer to these questions was: safety, and too many students with teams that are quarantined and not able to play. When we returned from break, covid numbers were higher and student athletic teams are being quarantined, so teams were running out of time to do conditioning and have any kind of season longer than one or two games.

Parent responded that he feels it is still frustrating that there isn’t consistency about who plays and doesn’t play or travels or doesn’t travel.

Dr. Roldan said he would pass that concern on to the district office.

Another question from SIC member: When are Beta club members being invited – are they still inviting- what grades?

Answer from staff: They have all been sent. Only grades 7th and 8th.

**Riley Award application:** Kelly thanked and congratulated the group for their efforts and their success of making it past the first level round of application. We were named to the Riley Award Honor Roll and will advance to the second level. Application is due on Feb 10th. Kelly encouraged members to assist in any way towards getting the second level narrative completed to be submitted.

**Perception (Climate) Data from Parents:** Kelly shared with the group that the survey has been worked on and poured over by SIC members, parent and CFEC liaison Julia Beaty. We are now waiting to get it back from administration with their issues, concerns and edits before it is finalized to be distributed. Kelly also shared that members collected over 10 different gift cards to use as prizes for the raffle for those completing the survey to be entered into and possibly win.

Dr. Roldan had these issues/concerns for the group:

* He wants us to agree on the constructs of what we are trying to measure. These are the headings that we gave him. He wants to follow the format that the State uses. If we can keep the questions with neutrality.
* And keep the categories with 3-5 questions each.
* And he doesn’t like asking for specific questions after each section instead of at the end.
* If we use district personnel to send this out, the information can’t be shared with parents on the SIC because of FERPA. The issue is how does the SIC find out who filled out survey to enter them in the raffle.

SIC members collectively discussed these issues and talked about compromises and remedies for the issues.

Decision was made that administration will edit the questions to be listed with neutrality as much as possible. The administration will choose the best 3-5 questions for each category/section. The open ended questions will remain at the end of each section.

To remedy protection of parent’s responses and still get the parent’s names for contest, all survey responses will go to the administration only. At the end of the survey, parent will be asked to go to separate link to give their name and contact info if they have completed the survey. That way they are separated from the response info and only giving their name and contact info to the SIC.

Kelly asked that the administration make their edits and finalize survey and give a link for the families to see it by next Tuesday, 1/26 and survey to be distributed shortly after that.

The next meeting date was set for February 16, 2021 at 5:30 by Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.