

Valley Ridge Academy

SAC Meeting

10/11/16

Acting Secretary: James M. Lee

1. Meeting called to order
 - a. 3:30
 - b. Sign in sheets passed around
 - c. New SAC Chair introduction
 - i. Holly Southworth
 1. Taking over for Mr. Sowcik
 - d. Quorum was achieved
2. September minutes review and approval
 - a. Revision made to Sept. motion to approve future meeting dates.
 - i. Section 4, item (b) sub-item (i)
 - ii. Remove Mr. Cotto's name and replace with "motion made"
 - b. Motion to approve minutes made at 3:34
 - i. Seconded at 3:34
3. Nomination of open positions
 - a. Description of each of the three roles were presented by the Chair
 - b. Co-Chair
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
4. School Board update: Kelly Barrera
 - a. Ms. Barerra was absent and her update was tabled until the following meeting
5. Principal update: Sandra McMandon
 - a. Encourage members to nominate themselves or others for the open SAC positions
 - b. VRA and SJCS through the storm
 - i. 40 Orange Street District Offices were relocated
 - ii. School board meeting moved to St. Johns Technical High School for 10/11/16 at 6:00 pm
 - iii. VRA did well through the storm, minor water damage to roof tiles and other minimal issues
 - iv. Biggest issue was lack of power for both SJC schools as well as with SJCS families
 - v. The civic pride and assistance within the community was heart-warming
 - vi. Good to get back to school and a sense of normalcy
 - c. Update on Superintendent search
 - i. Narrowed down to 4 candidates
 - ii. More info on each candidate can be found on the District website
 - iii. VRA has been selected as a school for the candidates to visit and tour
 - d. Fall Festival
 - i. October 22nd from 3:00-6:00
 - ii. Introduction of Ms. Molis: PTO President

1. From 2-3, there were be a PTO Members only pre-open as a way to acknowledge our members
 2. Book Fairs will be open
 - a. Middle school and Elementary will both be in Villa 9
 3. Gift Basket Fundraiser
 - a. Raffled off during the festival
 - b. Do not need to be present to win
 4. If you are able to volunteer in any of the events, please connect with Ms. Molis
- iii. Hurricane make up days
1. 4 total
 2. First one will occur on October 17th
 3. The three from Matthew
 - a. The District is still in contact with the FLDOE as to the requirements for make ups in regards of minutes and days
 - b. More information will be forth coming
 - i. VRA will publish the make-up days as soon as information is provided by the District
 - c. Parent Question: Does FL forgive lost days due to weather?
 - i. Not entirely sure as to the exact number of days or minutes currently. The District is in contact with FLDOE to get this information
 - d. Parent Question: Do make up days need to occur in the semester in which they are missed?
 - i. Ideally yes to keep things balanced but days can be made up at any time throughout the year
 - ii. District will determine what is best for students prior to making this decision
6. Old business
- a. None
7. New business
- a. Collection of the nomination of open positions ballots
 - b. Nominations:
 - i. Co- Chair: Ms. Solomon
 - ii. Secretary: Ms. Arvay
 - iii. Treasurer: Ms. Collins
 - c. Ms. Arvay induction to SAC as a voting member will take place at the November Meeting
 - i. Motion to include Ms. Arvay made at 3:58
 - ii. Motion seconded: 3:58
 - iii. Voice vote approves and the motion carries
 - d. Motion to approve nominees made at 4:00
 - i. Motion seconded

- ii. Voice vote approves and the motion to approve the nominees into their new roles carries
- e. Parent question: Is Valley Ridge an evacuation shelter
 - i. Yes but it is a tier 3 evacuation shelter
 - 1. The District opened the tier 1 and tier 2 shelters during the storm
- f. Parent question: Did VRA lose power?
 - i. Not certain, but if so it was not for long. Prior the Thursday, the faculty and staff cleaned out the school and prepared for the storm to minimize issues
- g. Parent question: What is the status of the Gifted/Blended program and how the classes were established? There is talk in the neighborhood and would like factual information.
 - i. The classes, while established prior to the current Principal taking over, was done in alignment with the District philosophy. Grouping is done so that Gifted students are grouped with a Gifted certified teacher and filled with heterogeneous blended academic level students.
 - ii. Student's needs are met through their Gifted certified classroom teacher as well as through the District Gifted itinerate teacher who pulls them once a week to work on their social/emotional goals.
- h. Parent Follow up question: How does that look in the classroom?
 - i. The philosophy is that student EP goals are being met and that the teacher is working in a differentiated manner to meet the needs of all students to make sure that the instruction is rigorous and individualized.
- i. Parent follow up: How does that look at middle school?
 - i. The Gifted itinerate teacher meets with those students to work on their goals within a group format.
- j. Parent follow up: How does the gifted class structure work in middle school?
 - i. We are held to class size in middle school for the 4 core classes: ELA/Math/Social Studies/Science
 - ii. Elective classes are not held to class size
- k. Parent follow up: How do we get more teachers?
 - i. Parents can contact the District office for more information as to how the school funding formula for staffing is structured.
- l. Parent follow up: What about the ½ cent sales tax?
 - i. That money is targeted for capital funding only and cannot be used for staffing.
- m. Parent follow up: How much money do we need and who do we need to contact to make up for funding shortages?
 - i. Parents can learn more about the funding formula through the District website as well as their School Board Member.
 - ii. Best idea is to contact State Legislature
- n. Parent Question: Will there be in impact when the new school opens?
 - i. Parents are encouraged to go District run re-zoning meetings when they begin and give input. Emailing input to the School Board Members is also encouraged.
 - ii. Those conversations have not been shared with VRA Admin. at this time.
- o. Parent Question: Will there be relief next year to VRA as we continue to grow?
 - i. Do not have that information at this time.

- ii. There is room for additional temporary classrooms on site.
 - iii. Another option would be for the Associate Teacher model.
 - p. Parent question: What about parent volunteers?
 - i. VRA welcomes any and all parent volunteers at any time with teacher agreement.
 - q. Parent question: How many zone waivers do we have at VRA?
 - i. The standard answer as this is a principal is "We are full."
 - r. Parent follow-up: What about parents who own a town home but don't live there?
 - i. We do home visits so if you have any information related to this please let us know.
 - s. Parent Input
 - i. On the Superintendent selection committee and they are looking for a Superintendent who understands growth
 - ii. Ms. McMandon: You are encouraged to connect with state legislature and share personal stories about how their decisions impact you at the local level. Parents are encouraged to vote in any and all elections. How you vote is up to you but going to vote is what that is important.
 - t. Parent Question: How does the Superintendent selection process work in St. Johns County?
 - i. The School Board selects and appoints the Superintendent and renews their contract every 4 years.
 - u. Parent Questions: Will there be relief for the Middle School lunch?
 - i. The schedule was developed prior to the current admin. coming on board but it was built with the understanding that the cafeteria would be expanded. The expansion was delayed and is set to being within the next month. Once that is completed, the schedule and routines will be reviewed. Student safety is the top priority and will always be at the top of priority.
 - v. Parent follow up: Parents would have preferred communication for the change ahead of time.
 - i. The admin. agrees and we apologize for the lack of communication at that time but we will work to adjust moving forward.
 - w. Parent question: What is the status on the IB Program?
 - i. We are still a candidate school and with the growth of the school and staff it presents a challenge. PYP is still a goal but is secondary to MYP approval.
8. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn made at 4:35
 - b. Seconded at 4:36
 - c. Voice vote carries the motion and the meeting adjourned at 4:36