**Wards Creek School Advisory Council**

**November 14, 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Attendees are attached on a separate list.

**Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Wards Creek Elementary School Advisory Council was held in the Wards Creek Elementary Media Center on November 14, 2016. Heather Clubb called the meeting to order 6:03. Dana Smith recorded minutes for this meeting.

**Minutes:**

The Minutes from last month’s meeting were reviewed. The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Charlotte Hartley and Judi Piggott seconded the motion.

**Legislative Platform Presentation:**

Ms. Beth Sweeney – Ms. Sweeney distributed the St. Johns County School District 2017 Legislative Platform. She also had a Power Point presentation. She is the coordinator for the school district and the legislature. She’s had the position for five years and is the first to have the position. It was in the five year plan. She is a prior legislature aid.

The purpose of the handout is to improve communication with teachers, parents and community members. The handout was just approved by school board last week. Highlights from the handout:

* Funding: prior to 2008-2009 school board could levy 2.0 mills for capital outlay. When economy started going downhill, legislature took part of mileage for operating expenses.
* Assessment & Instructional Materials: Florida is 50th in country for funding for schools. District wants Florida to be in upper quartile. Funding for virtual school and hours beyond regular school day, we used to get funded for that. But there has been a recalibration to where regardless of hours, students only count as 1.0 FTE. But now we get less money per student if they take any virtual school courses.
* Addresses the requirement for 1 to 1 technology 1 to 1.
* District priority is to put a nurse put in every school. This is not funded by the state.
* In general, we need more money!
* Requesting feedback for students writing scores like they did when it was Florida Writes.
* Take a piece of public school money to charter school.
* School Safety – person requesting public records on campus need to identification.
* In Florida the priority has not been on education. In 2010, education got 32% of 70 billion dollar budget. In 2016, even though budget is greater – 82 billion – is only 29% of budget.

Ms. Sweeney then addressed how the community can be legislative advocates - What you need to know to make changes happen and to advocate effectively for teachers and students.

* Know your issue – data is important, and come with a solution proposed.
* Build an effective message – Focus on an issue, add the reason for it’s importance – include a personal story if possible, have the correct information – specific dollar amount, bill number, and get the legislature’s names correct.
* The best time to build relationships with local representatives is when they are in the district.
* Senator Travis Hutson and Representative Cyndi Stevenson are our local representatives.
* When given an opportunities for advocacy be on time, be prepared. Dress and act professionally, keep text to one page, follow up promptly, thank you notes, positive, polite, friendly, and solutions-focused, remember your message, legislative aids can help as well.

Ms. Sweeney also gave some resources for information:

* Governmental relations [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ar](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ar)
* Twitter @sjcsdadvocates

Ms. Sweeney also addressed questions and discussions:

* Mrs. Williams ask if all school districts have in-house advocates/liaisons – we are smallest district with a liaison. There are about 40 in all.
* She then asked if our county has any extra pull due to being number one in state. No.
* Changes isn’t going to occur until tests scores fall, or injuries occur, nothing significant is likely to happen.
* She’s trying to get out into schools to put message out.
* All info is available on district website.
* Suggestion: Put a link on school websites to the legislative information on the district website.
* The ultimate goal to get legislature to be responsive to schools.
* None of the local representatives are on the education committee.
* When targeting the leadership, there are difficulties.
* For an example the top education committee member’s wife has a charter school.
* In the house there are four education committees. Representative Diaz is not pro-public schools. He works for a charter school.
* The Senate has two education committees. They are much more moderate and free-thinking
* Over third of house is brand new.

Ms. Clubb requested that Ms. Sweeney email the PowerPoint to her, for dissemination to the SAC members.

**Focus Group Meeting Synopsis and Group Norms:**

Mrs. Farrell went on September 14th. The next one is tomorrow morning. It will be Dr. Joyner’s last focus meeting.

* District is using E-flyers – Peach Jar – way of disseminating flyers – District flyer system
* There was a discussion about new superintendent selection.
* Dr. Joyner talked about Budget – nurses cost of 1M a year.

**PTO Report – Heather Clubb:**

The fall festival went well.

**Principal’s Report – Heather Clubb:**

* Tim Forson is the new superintendent. Ms. Clubb distributed a media release about him.
* Legacy Bricks – Hand out with info about the program. Mrs. Williams asked how the money will be used that is raised from the sale of the bricks. Ms. Clubb said she didn’t know but will find out. Rene’ Tatman said she thinks that it will be put back into the Leadership account.

Ms. Clubb said the Group Norms will be tabled for next meeting. She also said that attendance is very important. We are supposed to have 80%, we’re hurting in this area. It was said that if emails are received ahead of time from a member saying they are unable to attend, it counts towards attendance.

The next meeting December 12. Christa Richey will be giving a presentation about programs being used in our school.

**Adjournment**:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Charlotte Hartley and Judi Piggott seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 P.M. Next SAC meeting will be December 12th, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.