**SAC**

**Monday, April 27, 2015**

**In attendance:** Kristan Schwab, Bill Stenger, Michele Danowski, Mr. Green, Debbie Hossenlopp, Tricia Eckstrom, Caitlin Saviano, Jillanne Conelias, Stephanie Hefner, Chris Roberston, Ashley Henderson

1. Old Business
   1. Meeting minutes were approved from the 3/23/15 meeting
   2. SAC nomination forms have been received and elections will take place at the May 26th meeting
2. New Business
   1. Pre-Medical Program at Nolan Middle School – Mrs. Rhan and Mrs. Boculac from Nolan Middle School spoke regarding the Pre-Medical Program available at Nolan. The program is available to 6, 7, and 8th grade students. It emphasizes science, math and language skills and will prepare the students to be highly competititive in the medical field.

An information session will be held in the Media Center on 5/5 for parents who are interested in learning more about the program and how to register their children.

* 1. School District Representatives – Mr. Don Hall (Deputy Superintendent of Operations), Mrs. Annette Codelia, and Mrs. Rebecca Roberts (CFO) spoke and answered questions on the current District standing. Mr. Hall reinforced that he’s committed to the District excelling. His key points included the following:
     1. The District is not broke – at the end of the school year, they will have $16.5 million in general funds surplus
        1. The $350 million in debt was issued prior to 2012 with the debt amortized out through 2031. At the time, there was no plan on how they would pay the debt back.
     2. The District is not laying off large numbers of employees and the District is not cutting programs and services. With increased healthcare costs, compensation, and programs that want expansion, the District must find ways to cut back.

Ways the District could collect additional funds:

* + - * 1. Re-instate the $0.005 sales tax that is scheduled to end in ‘17
        2. Millage
        3. Issue New Debt
        4. Impact fees (must be issued by the County)
    1. Kristan Schwab asked why a freeze was recently put on the general school funds (not to be confused with the internal school accounts). Mr. Hall reported that the majority of school purchases are done in the first 6 months of the school year. Schools shouldn’t be holding funds till the end of the year because they find that schools are then just “dumping” and buying things for the next school year. Programs have been put in place to better educate principals on the proper way to manage budgets. It was questioned why certain principals even hold these positions if they do not understand how to manage a school budget.
    2. FEFP – what district receives from the state for funds. This is based on student count. Maintaining that all schools are equal, the District then allocates the funds to each school based upon the number of students.
       1. Title 1 and special schools get supplements for students and programs
       2. Categorical funding follows students and provides additional funds to support their needs (examples include IDDA, ESOL)
    3. A long range master plan for the school district is in the works. Mr. Hall hoped this would be approved at the 4/28 meeting. If passed, a third party would be brought in to evaluate and assess the right boundaries/school zones, and which schools should be closed.

1. Principal’s Update
   1. Uniform Policy vote passed. Of the 560 ballots that went out, 400 were returned and 310 of those said yes for the uniform policy.
   2. Safety – currently trying to get the parking lot under control during the drop-off and pick-up times. Main issue is that unauthorized cars are being parked in the handicap spaces during these times.
   3. Staff – as reported last month, the head custodian did retire.
      1. With an approximate 724 students enrolled for next year, the preliminary staffing allocations are about the same/not less than the current number of teachers. By 6/1, teachers need to be told if they will not be asked to come back. Additionally, those who are returning must be provided with a tentative teaching assignment.
      2. Mrs. Mathis plans to return; Mr. Sajewski will return to the Media Center; Mrs. Leake and Mrs. Marcus are both expected to return.
   4. Additional Notes
      1. Math Superstars – a team comprised of 2 Willis fifth grade students placed first in the Math Superstars competition sponsored by AAUW for 4th and 5th grade Manatee County students. To determine the top scorer, the candidates take a 45 minute math exam at the Manatee County Technical College.
      2. If his request is accepted, Superintendent Mills will retire effective 7/31.
2. Motion to adjorn at 8:24; seconded by Mr. Green.

The next SAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26.