

T.Clay Wood Elementary  
Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, February 28, 2013 • The Library • 7:05 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.

**I. Welcome by Chairperson**

Karen Martin, the chairperson welcomed members.

<b>Members Present</b>	Linda Ashpole • Laura Barrett • Andrew Buchheit • Stephanie Griffin • Richard Hansford • David Johnstone • Melanie Kynard • Karen Martin • Stacie Mulholland • Maureen Ochs • Elizabeth Paiz • Cindy Probus • Gela Russell • Ryan Sanfilippo • Karola Scarce
<b>Members Not Present</b>	Mary Beth Crowder-Meier • Kelly Davis • Amy Gibson • Brian Howard • Bill Muirhead • Meeta Patel • Melissa Yuditsky

**II. Review/Approval of January 24, 2012 Minutes**

*January 2012 Minutes* were approved and accepted.

**III. Citizen's Time**

No community citizens spoke during the open forum time.

**IV. Chair's Time [Moved ahead due to the visit of Brentsville District Representative Gil Trenum]**

Brentsville District School Board Member Gil Trenum was invited by the Council in order to discuss the current state of Prince William County. He focused primarily on the following topics:

- A. **Budget concerns:** It appears that the 2% increase in teacher's salary will be able to be sustained even though there continues to be deep budget concerns. He continues to be concerned about the amount of taxes sent by the Northern Virginia area to the capital and the return to the Northern Virginia region.
- B. **Class sizes:** Due to budget constrains class sizes will continue to be at higher-levels than desired.
- C. **Boundary Adjustments:** Given new construction boundary changes are on the forefront. In addition, with the building of the new K-8 Nokesville school, some TCWES students may be diverted to the new school.<sup>1</sup>
- D. **County Computer Updates:** By 2014 area schools are working to upgrade computer systems to Windows 2007 given the license expiration of Windows XP. These software changes will result in high costs to area schools.
- E. **New High School:** The Council discussed the pending construction of a new area high school on the eastern end of Prince William County. There was a discussion about the new school projected to have a swimming pool—which appears to be an area need.

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<sup>1</sup> The committee discussed at length the introduction of the new K-8 school. Questions surrounding the overall size of the school, the school's sports program, and the positive impact on Marstellar's class sizes (due to losing students to the new school).

## **V. Principal's Time**

Andrew Buchheit, the principal, discussed the following topics:

### **A. Upcoming Events:**

1. Book Character Dress Up Day | March 2
2. Writing Predictor | March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>
3. SOL Information Night | March 14<sup>th</sup>

### **B. April Meeting**

1. Soliciting new members
2. Referring to the by-laws for review/update

## **VII. Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction (SAC/SACI) Report**

Melanie Kynard presented on the information that came out of the SACI meeting. The following information was relayed to the TCWES Advisory Council:

- A. **Gifted Program:** Questions regarding whether the Gifted Program should remain in the classroom so that all students can benefit from the instruction. Students at the middle and high school levels continue to be concerned about missing instruction due to attending gifted classes.
- B. **Health & Physical Education:** Continues to be an essential part of the daily instructional practice and often includes multiple academic areas such as language arts and math.

## **VI. PTO Liaison Report**

PTO Liason Laura Barrett briefly mentioned the Fun Run for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and stated that the PTO had not met since the Council's last meeting.

## **VII. Advisory Council Representative Time**

There were no additional comments presented at this time.

## **III. Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting date is: Thursday, April 25, 2013.

## **X. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

*TCWES School Mission: A Community of Leaders and Learners Achieving Excellence*