

T.Clay Wood Elementary  
Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, November 29, 2012 • The Art Room • 7:05 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**I. Welcome by Chairperson**

Karen Martin, the chairperson welcomed members.

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

**II. Review/Approval of November 1, 2012 Minutes**

*November 1, 2012 Minutes* were reviewed and approved.

**III. Citizen's Time**

Member Amy Gibson and parent Mindy Diepenbrock brought up their concerns regarding the practices and policies in the physical education courses. This included in particular concerns regarding the change of color from green to yellow when students do not check that they are present (complete attendance) within a given class time period. Moreover, there were concerns regarding students going outside and having an opportunity to engage in learning opportunities outside of the traditional learning environment.

Ms. Probus and Mr. Buchheit addressed the concerns suggesting that the attendance practice is used as a non-stressful tool to engage students in the regular practice/exercise of completing their attendance within a timely manner. In addition, Ms. Probus noted that students do complete activities outside; however, they also complete a rich instructional (Standards of Learning (SOL) required) program that engages students in a multitude of activities that do take place in doors.

**IV. Chair's Time [Moved ahead due to visiting presenters.]**

Mrs. Carol Knight, the supervisor of Prince William County Schools (PWCS) Mathematics, partnered with Dr. Kathleen Morris (K-2) and Ms. Donna Stofko (3-5)/Title I Supervisor to lead a discussion with the Advisory Council regarding past and current mathematics testing trends. Specifically, they shared the following information:

- A. During the 2011-2012 school year there were significant changes to the mathematics SOL tests which outlined the importance of providing students multiple ways to approach mathematic challenges. The state and the county are expecting students to analyze and apply information

learned within the classroom. There appears to be a deep need to build the confidence of students—especially in the upper elementary grades.

- B. In the past testing cycle grades 5 and 6 saw an increase in the amount of cognitive requirements. In addition, new content was presented in those grades as well as in Algebra I and II, including statistics.
1. A teacher focus group selected a new textbook for multiple grade-levels for the 2012-2013 school year (which is in use now). There are student online logins available for TCWES students.
  2. The 2011-2012 scores in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade showed a 67% mastery level and a 93% pass rate in the previous year (which goes to show the cognitive variances).
  3. The new test reflects a blended approach with skills and concepts. Students must problem solve, reason, prove, communicate, connect and represent data. In addition, they must complete multi-step problems.

## **V. 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. **Developing Study Skills for Students:** Working in conjunction with the Counseling Department schools/a focus group will be looking at implementing work habits, goal setting, decision making, and organization skills into the counseling instruction.
- B. **Middle & High School Concerns:** Parents were interested in keyboarding courses embedded into language arts classrooms. In addition, the need for career planning to begin occurring at the middle school level.

## **VI. PTO Liaison Report**

Meeta Patel presented in lieu of PTO Liason Laura Barrett. She discussed upcoming activities such as REACH and the Holiday Shop. In addition, TCWES placed second in the Chick-Fil-A contest.

## **VII. Principal's Time**

Andrew Buchheit, the principal, discussed the following topics:

- A. **Upcoming Events:**
1. Holiday Shop extension hours
  2. Book Fair beginning December 3, 2012
  3. Eggspectations PTO Night
  4. Rudy Youth Club Toy Drive
  5. Family Literacy Night December 4, 2012

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

- A. New Bristow Village: Concerns regarding the amount of food available in the cafeteria. It appears that the popular food items are quickly running out. This issue has been addressed by TCWES administration and is expected to improve.

B. Kettle Run/Schaeffer Lane: Thankful for the *Girls on the Run* participation.

### **VIII. Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting date is: Thursday, January 24, 2013.

### **X. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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