

T.Clay Wood Elementary
Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2013 • The Library • 6:30 p.m. – 8:26 p.m.

I. Welcome by Chairperson

Karen Martin, the chairperson, welcomed all members. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Janna Raper filled in as secretary for Maureen Ochs.

Members Present	Linda Ashpole • Andrew Buchheit • Karen Martin • Stephanie Griffin • Cindy Vollmer • Janna Raper • Melanie Kynard • Ann Marie McCurdy • Karola Scarce • Melissa Yuditsky • Bill Muirhead • Cindy Probus • Liz Paiz
Members Not Present	Sara Meadows (excused) • Kathryn Clark (excused) • Crystal Partin • Maureen Ochs (excused) (excused) • Johann O’Neal (excused) • Fanny Martins (excused) • Dana Fonner (excused) • Renee Watson (excused) • Kate Bennett (excused) • Mary Beth Crowder Meier (excused) • Donna Brandveen

II. Review/Approval of October 24, 2013 Minutes

The minutes for October 24, 2013 were approved as written.

III. Citizen’s Time

- No community citizens spoke during open forum time.

IV. PTO Liaison Report (Donna Brandveen)

- There was no PTO report, as the PTO Liaison was not present.

V. Chair’s Time

- The ENCORE teachers each gave an overview of their subjects for the 2013-2014 school year.
 - Mr. Dove (Drama): He has switched to teaching Drama full-time this year, rather than alternating with Science. His goal is to work toward getting a Drama curriculum in other area elementary schools. His lesson rotation includes several components:
 - Creativity (writing plays, etc.)
 - Presentation/Performance of plays
 - Leadership
 - Public speaking skills

The Drama Club presented “Fractured Fairy Tale Theatre” for their fall performance. They have also been producing commercials for the PTO Holiday Shop and a video on Respect.

- Mrs. Cowne (Math/Science): She spends half her time teaching in her classroom and half her time assisting in the grade level classrooms and with special presentations, such as Parent Teas. She also serves as the liaison between the school and PWCS. They are currently gauging interest in an environmental education program called Project Learning Tree.

- Mrs. Hughes (Art): She has Standards of Learning from the State and County that must be incorporated into her curriculum:
 - Visual communication and art production (elements of design, media, tools, style)
 - Art history and cultural context (influence of artists and the art world, why artists make art)
 - Analysis and evaluation (students look back at their own work; 5th graders keep a sketch journal)
 - Aesthetics (personal awareness of art content and display)

She is using a new tool this year called the Magic Paint Brush. If students listen carefully and figure out the “magic” word, they earn the right to use the paint brush to dismiss tables at the end of class.

- Mrs. Anderson (Music):
 - She incorporates four strands of music curriculum:
 - Performance and production
 - Cultural context and music theory
 - Judgment and criticism
 - Aesthetics
 - She shared some pictures of the students in music class.

○ Mrs. Rice (Library): Library alternates with Math/Science, so Mrs. Rice only sees the students every 12 days in the ENCORE rotation. She does not have a standard curriculum with SOLs she has to follow. Her curriculum follows the language arts curriculum, with an emphasis on research and writing. Broad objectives for the library curriculum in each grade are as follows:

- K: Love of reading and exposure to authors
- 1st grade: Fiction vs. non-fiction
- 2nd grade: Library catalog
- 3rd grade: Research and reference books
- 4th grade and 5th grade: more in-depth study building on the previous grades

The Book Fair is scheduled for December 9-13 in the library.

- Ms. Probus (P.E.):
 - She has a new assistant P.E. teacher this year, Mr. Tollson.
 - They are using a new iPad app in P.E. called SWORKIT.
 - The goal of physical education is “meaningful physical activity throughout life.”
 - See the P.E. school fusion website for plans, objectives, etc. for P.E.
 - 4th and 5th grades participate in fitness testing
 - They have begun doing pre- and post-tests before P.E. units in grades 2-5 to help students gauge their skill level and progress.
 - Following are the SOLs that she must incorporate into the curriculum:
 - Skilled movement
 - Movement principles and concepts
 - Personal fitness

- Responsible behaviors
- Physically active lifestyle
- Annual Agenda – At the February meeting, we will discuss best practices. These will then be discussed at the March SACI meeting.

VI. Principal's Time

Vanessa Bauer, who is representing T. Clay Wood on the Nokesville K-8 school boundary committee, reported the following:

- T. Clay Wood will have no students rezoned to the Nokesville K-8.
- Marsteller Middle School will have approximately 200 students rezoned to Nokesville K-8. Marsteller is expected to remain overcrowded until 2018.
- The zoning committee will begin planning the boundary for the Devlin Road School in 2014, which is scheduled to open in 2015. It is to serve the “Linton Hall corridor.”
- TCWES’s attendance is expected to continue trending downward in 2014-2015 and then begin trending upward again the following school year.
- There are two upcoming Boundary Committee meetings scheduled to discuss the Nokesville K-8:
 - November 25, 2013, 7:00 PM, Brentsville District High School Auditorium
 - December 9, 2013, 7:00 PM, Marsteller Cafeteria
- Vanessa encouraged us to attend these meetings to learn how the boundary process works.
- If we have questions, we are free to contact Vanessa.

Mr. Buchheit, school principal, gave his report, which included updates from the PTO in the absence of the PTO liaison:

- School will dismiss at 12:25 PM on Wednesday, November 27 for Thanksgiving break.
- The PTO Holiday Shop will be held December 2-6.
- Yearbook order forms will be coming soon.
- The first ever T. Clay Wood Spelling Bee will be held the week of December 9.
- December 18 & 19 are chorus and strings concerts.
- The Drama Club play will be held the evening of December 12.
- Chick-fil-A Spirit Night will be December 4.
- Remember to link grocery loyalty cards to our school.
- Try out Shoparoo, which is a new way to earn money for the school that involves submitting photos of receipts from select stores.
- Family Fitness Night will be held November 26.
- There will be a Fun Run in April, in conjunction with Field Day. They are looking for a chairperson to lead this.
- There is a new website called VASchoolDeals.com, in which you can sign up to receive daily offers (similar to Groupon). Redeeming the offers benefits the school of your choice.

Mr. Buchheit briefly discussed the results of the communication survey that was recently distributed. One change that will likely come out of the survey is that the “Timberwolf Times” newsletter will be distributed monthly instead of weekly in the future.

VII. Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction Report

Melanie Kynard discussed the following topics:

- Reminded the Advisory Council of the link for SACI on the PWCS website: PWCS Website → About Us → Advisory Councils → SACI. This is where you can find agendas, minutes, and PowerPoint presentations from meetings.
- The SACI had discussed the Annual Report.
- PWCS voted to continue its relationship with Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria.
- Virginia is not producing enough qualified teachers, so PWCS recruits from all over the Eastern US, with a majority of new hires coming from out of state. Fewer than 2% of the teacher applicants are hired.
- Instruction must be meaningful and engaging.
- Continued topics of discussion: homework, safety, CIP, math differentiation in the classroom.

VIII. Representative's Time

- K-1 – Everything is good.
- 2-3 – Nothing to report.
- 4-5 – Nothing to report.
- Classified – Nothing to report.
- Encore – Everything is good.
- SPED/ELL/Gifted – Nothing to report.
- Highland Village – Regarding the communication survey, request for clarification of where to look for specific information, such as weather alerts, etc. (website, email, SchoolInfo app?)
- Highland Village – Parents had been wondering why no phone tree information had yet been distributed. The school has decided not to use the phone tree procedure this year.
- Tartan Hills – Reminder that the T. Clay Wood Advisory Council information on the T. Clay Wood website is not up to date. We want to make sure to continue to publicize our purpose and meeting dates.
- New Bristow Village – Nothing to report.
- Kettle Run/Schaeffer Lane– There continue to be concerns about traffic safety on these roads.
- Student Resource – There has been a request to evaluate whether the school library could stay open during the lunch hour, allowing more opportunity for students to stop in and check out books.
- At Large Reps – Nothing to report.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting date is: Thursday, January 23, 2014, at 6:30 pm.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

TCWES School Vision: A Community of Leaders and Learners Achieving Excellence