

**Brentsville District High School  
School Advisory Council (SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

**Call to Order:** Ms. Poole called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Amy Poole, Natalie Poole, Norma Fernandez, Sonya Jacob, Melisaa Layton, Dr. Katherine Meints, Cheryl Miehl, Jenn Pereira, Jan Smith, Terri Snoots, and Holly Tousha.

**Review/Approve Minutes:** Members reviewed minutes for October 15, 2024. Ms. Jacobs noted a correction was needed concerning the April meeting date. It was changed from April 15 to April 22. Ms. Smith will revise the minutes with this correction. Ms. Snoots motioned to approve minutes with April date correction; Ms. Pereira seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved.

**Open Chair/Community Time:**

No one signed up to share. In relation to this, Dr. Meints shared a parent concern, asking Ms. Pereira take note for possible SACI topic, that parents are frustrated with School Status broadcast messaging as email is not being received by Gmail and Yahoo accounts. Dr. Meints clarified that many using these platforms are getting emails and that she has only had four parents contact her about not receiving emails.

Ms. Tousha shared concern about teachers sending out email messages for which they are not able to view a report regarding whether the message was received. Dr. Meints and Ms. Layton will investigate teacher report access. Additionally, Ms. Tousha shared there is no option for teachers to schedule email messages for future dates; they can schedule messages in TeacherVUE. Ms. Tousha noted when parents' responses via School Status to a School Status text/email, the teacher does not receive any kind of notification. So only when the teacher is back in the program, often a couple of days later, do they see responses. Mrs. Layton informed members of an upgrade to School Status, which is supposed to resolve many of the current issues, in which parents will pick by which method they receive messages.

**Old Business:**

- CIP Update: A CIP meeting was held on November 18; Mr. Wolfe and Ms. McClarin were in attendance.
  - Learning and Achievement for All: BDHS is approaching and on target with each goal they can currently measure. Students current scores on material from the beginning of the year are higher while recent scores are lower, depending on the target, which is expected given spiraling/retakes. There are goals in math and English, as well as for EL students – as a reminder the latter goal was given to all schools by the division.
  - Positive Climate and Culture: Attendance –14.5% chronic absenteeism last year; 14.9 % this year. Ms. Fernandez, counselors, and admin are making calls to these parents. Ms. Fernandez shared that some students are excusing their own attendance through ParentVue. Ms. Snoots added there are certain times of year when attendance is worse. Dr. Meints noted we expected MP 3 and 4 to be worse last year given historic data, but that was not the case. We are also trying to improve rates using recognition and prizes for attendance (overall and improved).

**Brentsville District High School  
School Advisory Council (SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

- There was a conversation regarding tardies in relation to attendance as it means more staff are talking to the students about the importance of attendance.
  - Family and Community engagement: This goal is related to SAC, and we are currently meeting all goals.
- Auditorium – Dr. Meints shared the auditorium is pretty much done. The house curtains are beautiful. We are waiting for them to do the punch list. In December, there will be full training on the lighting system and changes to the sound system.

**New Business:**

- Budget – Members received a copy of the Brentsville budget allocation sheet, and Dr. Meints explained the 2024-25 final budget. We are at 92.65% for staffing, which is just a little over the window (HS should be at 89 – 92% for staffing). She predicts \$8,000 in parking permit fees by the end of the school year plus \$22,000 for Teachers for Tomorrow. Operational funds are \$809,919; the year we were tight it was \$514,000 and last year was \$912,000. Dr. Meints noted we are in a comfortable place. Expenditure estimates were included and specifics about software now covered by the division and those paid for by the school.  
Ms. Jacobs asked about the cost of security at games. Dr. Meints shared the county covers the cost; Evolv is moved out to the field for outdoor varsity football games.  
Ms. Poole inquired about No Red Ink. Dr. Meints noted we are monitoring how much they are using it and for what purpose. Ms. Poole shared that when she sat with her child, she found it very frustrating. Dr. Meints asked Mr. Carbo to monitor as it is a lot of money and will need to be revisited.  
Ms. Jacobs motioned to approve the final 2024-25 budget; Ms. Miehl seconded the motion; unanimously approved.
- SACI Time – Ms. Pereira provided a summary of the October SACI meeting. Wildly Important Goals (WIGS) and current state were covered. She will send out the matrix taken in 2018, which was data from the beginning of Covid. She asked at the SACI meeting what other data the division was using. Several parents questioned the data as everything was trending up/improving.  
Dr. Meints shared there are multiple seniors in Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) who will be turning 18, and when they turn 18 (one turns 18 at the end of November), they must leave the YFT program. Their next steps are difficult especially if they strive to complete their HS diploma. Ms. Pereira noted the division touted the Edmentum program and asked about its use/application. Edmentum pros and cons were discussed, and framed in relation YFT students' daily structure, specifically, the busyness over the weekend with little to no time to do homework.  
SACI spent 1-1 ½ hours going through stats and the last part of the post 2025 strategic plan.
- Testing – We are in a pretty good place with seniors; we are addressing many requirements early. This week is Work Keys Reading and Workplace Readiness testing.

**Brentsville District High School  
School Advisory Council (SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

- Informational:
  - a. Tiger Tracks – We had hardly anyone attend. Ms. Poole noted 8-10 a.m. is a hard time and suggested moving it to the end of the day. Ms. Tousha added people do not want in-person meetings. Ms. Jacob noted external factors to people not coming in. Dr. Meints asked members, when they are out and about and see parents, to ask what parents need to come to Tiger Tracks and would a Zoom option work. There is an advantage for teachers to reach out and say, “I’d like you to sign up for a time...” in addition to the general notification that goes to all parents.
  - b. Specialty Program Night – Ms. Miehl noted it was a good turnout. Dr. Meints shared that we changed how we discuss the agriculture program. The information shared included the four classes, beginning with horticulture. The goal is to make sure interested students know they do not begin the program working on the machines.  
Ms. Miehl – noted Hylton HS has five specialty programs and questioned how many schools have in general.  
Ms. Snoots noted sometimes a specialty program causes budgetary concerns.
  - c. We can test students in languages for credit in lieu of a full course – it is called credit by assessment. In relation to credit by assessment, Ms. Snoots shared it is a good option for EL students. Dr. Meints/Ms. Miehl shared that we have six testing in the fall. There are three language tests available.

Other Discussion Items:

Ms. Jacob asked a question about curriculum which prompted Dr. Meints to explain how the county addresses the differences in coursework and implications of Cambridge program. The only time consideration is given to the comparison of state vs Cambridge curriculum is when the Cambridge course has a Virginia curriculum. For example, IGCSE Geometry must cover the state and Cambridge curriculum. This is true for any IGCSE class. However, our AICE level classes must adhere only to the Cambridge curriculum. There are two levels of AICE classes – AS and A. Most of our students take AS level, which is often introductory or the topic on a broader and less detailed scale. The A level course is much more rigorous either in extending the learning or in the depth the topic is studied. For example, in the case of AICE Psychology AS, the students cover several case studies that are tested on a more surface level. The A level test expects students to go much deeper into the case studies (both classes use the same text, as is often the case with Cambridge books).

Dr. Meints noted students have requested to study for and take the A level tests, but on a limited basis. She also noted what students want to do with the credits/possible Cambridge diploma varies. For example, this year we have three students applying to international schools based on the most recent information she has, and we have not had one apply internationally for quite a while. Data points/goals like these ebb and flow.

**Brentsville District High School  
School Advisory Council (SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

**Meeting Reminders:**

December 17, 2024  
January 21, 2025  
February 18, 2025

March 18, 2025  
April 22, 2025  
May 20, 2025

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

- School Status Teacher Report

**Adjournment:** Ms. Tousha motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Jacobs seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.