

**KWHS SAC Meeting Minutes**  
**KWHS-Rising Strong! Conch Strong!**  
**Tuesday, August 15, 2023-5:30pm**  
**KWHS Media Center & Virtual Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2pke6kb4>**

**1. Call to order at 5:42 pm**

**Attendance:** MCSD Superintendent Theresa Axford, Principal Rebecca Palomino, Assistant Principals: Dr. Ja-Ronika Veldheer, Dave Perkins, and Yanelys Ballard; Leslie Johnson, Joyce Milelli, Trudy Bowden, Dana Ring, Henry Boza, Matt Poffenberger, Julie Bridger, Maria Hueje, Mery Pucuhuaranga, Nubia Chavez, Hays Blinckmann, Trish Gibson, Carla Turner, Scott Paul, Sarah Baxter, Amy Stubblefield, Jason Stubblefield, Abby Clawson, Teo Masters, Adan Umana, Francisco Jose Gonzales, Miguel Gavilan, Ana Alvarez, Angelica Lancheros.

**Virtual Attendance:** Nicole McCoy, Rissola, Jenny, Amy, Walt Howarth, Mairim Perez, Mayed Robertson, Dawn G, Tracey Smith, Sarah Garr, Kristen Condella, Kawana Staffney, Jill Cranney.

**2. Welcome**

- Sign in options
- Opening remarks-Leslie Johnson and Principal Rebecca Palomino.
- Principal Rebecca Palomino introduced herself as the KWHS 2023-24 Principal and provided background on her 19 years in the district, most of it at KWHS as a teacher, counselor, ESE support staff, and assistant principal. She served most recently at Gerald Adams Elementary as an assistant principal. She graduated from KWHS in 2000 and is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Conch. Ms. Palomino introduced her team of vice principals (names noted above).

**3. Approve Minutes of May Meeting-** Motion: Leslie Johnson, Approved: Joyce Milelli.

**4. Old Business**

- **Grading Policies, Late Work Acceptance, Gradebook Platform**
  - Staff met over summer to discuss grading policies.
  - Grading distribution may change to 60/40 (assessments/other i.e. assignments, classwork).
- **Summer School**
  - Approximately 300 students attended summer school. Students could recover credits.

**5. New Business**

- **Administrative Team Update**
  - Superintendent Theresa Axford greeted participants and spoke about one of her projects to oversee new furniture in the media centers. Each summer a new school will get new furniture. Next summer KWHS will get new classroom furniture.
  - Grading Committee-Ms. Axford reported that 17 staff members led by Melissa Alsobrooks worked over summer on grading policies. More to come on final policy decisions.
  - Ms Axford spoke on serving KWHS as a principal for 1 year before being asked to serve at the district level years ago. She shared the mission statement of working together to inspire and bring excellence to our schools. Ms. Axford wants all students to feel loved, respected and valued.
  - Social media use is not allowed on school grounds. Example: Tik Tok.
  - Ms. Axford hopes all students will establish a positive relationship with their teachers.
  - Assemblies will help to provide students with increased understanding of school rules, such as dress code policies. This morning they counted 14/400 student dress code violations. Students were asked to change into a Conch pride t-shirt, and tops were returned to students at the end of the school day. T-shirts are washed by staff to use again for shirt violations.

- **Staffing Update**
  - Principal Rebecca Palomino spoke about KWHS staffing. One physics/chemistry teacher position is open and interviews occurred today for this position. A backup plan for this position is using the Elevate Program which provides a virtual teacher on the Smart Touch and an adult, such as a paraprofessional, will be present in the classroom to supervise students.
  - All other staffing positions are currently covered but some math teachers are taking on extra periods.
  - There are 5 new teachers in the math department, and 4 new teachers in the English department.
  - An Athletic Trainer is needed, the salary has increased for this position and interviews are ongoing.
  - There are now 3 mental health counselors.
  - Staffing allotment is based on enrollment numbers, and this is determined after Labor Day when numbers are finalized.
- **Class Rank and Adjusted GPA Formula**
  - SAC members/parents requested discussion of the adjusted GPA formula for Valedictorian/Salutatorian consideration and class rank. Parents request KWHS to communicate and explain the formula to students and parents at the start of school, and how it effects class rank.
  - Information on GPA/Academics is in the 2023-24 KWHS Student Handbook found on the KWHS web site.
  - A parent present reported there is already confusion among students this year on the GPA issue in the Portal. Another parent (via virtual link) reported the effect of taking the HOPE class on GPA and the confusion of it being a requirement if your student plays a high school sport for 2 years.
  - Superintendent Theresa Axford suggested to Principal Rebecca Palomino to start a Think Tank of parents/families to discuss and present ideas to the district for review.
  - Email your name and contact info to join the GPA Think Tank @ kwhs.sac@gmail.com.
- **School Communication Outlets/Focus Parent Portal**
  - No cell phone use in classrooms policy is now a Florida state statute. Teachers may have permission to use cell phones for instruction purposes.
  - Communication outlets: KWHS web site, Google classroom, Blackboard, Focus Parent Portal, Facebook and the MCSD App. Ms. Axford encourages families to download the MCSD App for the best source of all information provided by the district.
  - KWHS teacher Matt Poffenberger will demonstrate how to download and use the MCSD App at our next SAC meeting, September 5, 2023.
- **Assessment Updates**
  - STAR testing has been eliminated.
  - FAST testing will continue.
- **Lower Keys Early Release Days**
  - KWHS Dates: Sept. 28, Dec 7, Feb 29
  - All Lower Keys Schools: Nov 1, Jan 31, April 17
- **Free/Reduced Lunch**
  - Application is on line. If families need help, they can request a paper copy and staff will assist data input.
  - Students who qualify for free/reduced lunches can be waived from paying fees to take the ACT/SAT exams.
- **Important Upcoming Dates:**
  - Aug 17<sup>th</sup>-Athletic Seminar @ 6:30pm in the Auditorium with Mr. Martin (Athletic Director).
  - Aug 18<sup>th</sup>-Pep Rally @ 2pm
  - Aug 31<sup>st</sup>-Open House/Bon Fire @ 5:30pm
  - Conch Football game this Friday-tickets available on line (see QR code)-purchase presale tickets and arrive early to get parking and avoid long lines.
- **SAC Board Member Elections**
  - Board members voted in: Returning Chair-Leslie Johnson, New Vice Chair-Hays Blinckmann, Returning Secretary-Joyce Milelli.

## 6. Question and Answer Period

- Ms Saunders and Mr. Martin are working on updating the KWHS master school calendar.
- Check social media (Facebook) and KWHS web site for more information.
- **Sign up for Ms. Saunder's weekly newsletter-email your request and your preferred email(s) to [Stacey.saunders@keysschools.com](mailto:Stacey.saunders@keysschools.com). This will provide families with up-to-date info on school events.**
- A parent offered to lead a committee to discuss allowing students to paint their parking spaces. This has been discussed in the past and one issue has been that there are not enough parking spaces. More to be discussed on this.

## 7. Announcements

- **Next SAC Meeting is Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Media Center & Virtual Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2pke6kb4>**

8. **Adjournment** 6:45pm. Motion: Leslie Johnson, Approved: Joyce Milelli

### KWHS SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

[kwhs.sac@gmail.com](mailto:kwhs.sac@gmail.com)

2022-23 Chair-Leslie Johnson, Vice Chair-Trudy Bowden, Secretary-Joyce Milelli

2023-24 Chair-Leslie Johnson, Vice Chair Hays Blinckmann, Secretary-Joyce Milelli