

School Advisory Council
Plantation Key School
December 11, 2024
Location: PKS Media Center

Call to Order

6:05 pm Lauren Dunn

Attendance

Board Members

Lauren Dunn- Chair

Mary Ann Goodwin- Vice Chair

Members

Officer Mercy

Monica Horsley

Sheena Jacobson

Sheila Lange

Attendees

Judy Calzadilla

Natasha Early

Linsey Ekblom

Cally Levine

Scott Naz

Melissa Stanfill

Lisa Taylor

Whitney Trentine

Kirsten Walsh

Karly Venezia

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve by Sheena Jacobson

2nd by Melissa Stanfill

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Melissa Stanfill

2nd by Sheena Jacobson

Presentation from School Lunch Dietary Manager

Effie Jackson

Ms. Jackson asked “what are your concerns about the school lunch?”

Natasha Early: Honey buns, rice crispy treats

Lauren Dunn: Parfaits with fruit loops and yogurt

Karly Venezia: 5 bags of chips

Ms. Jackson: Grab & Go lunch meets school USDA guidelines

Honey buns and rice crispy treats are smart snacks which meet the USDA guidelines

All have to meet standards to qualify for school approved lunch

The Ice cream treats are frozen yogurt and rice crispy treats and pop tarts are whole grain.

“Are they healthy snacks?”, “No”. “ But they meet the standards.”

She said parents need to make limits. Her staff can not make limits on what the kids purchase but she asks them to use “common sense” when child is purchasing too many snacks. She asked her staff to write down child’s name so parents can be notified if child is purchasing too many snacks.

The parfaits with marshmallows and chocolate chips are allowable because it meets the standards. All cereal has to fit the USDA standards to be approved.

She brought up the website so parents can see the standards and labels on food and snacks that the school sells. www.fdacs.gov

Gordon Food services provides for the district.

Every 4 years the standards change due to the newly elected federal administration.

She says if you make the food and snacks too healthy will students eat?

She would love to have scratch cooking in the cafeteria but she will need 4 to 5 more employees to run it. It all comes down to federal funding which is lacking. They pay double for delivery fees because of our location, the keys are too far away.

She asks if we as parents can get government leadership to get involved. She is going to provide us with a list of items that she can order and we as parents can decide what our school provides for snacks.

Karly Venezia asked if we need more funding at the district level and Ms. Jackson replied “ No, state level.”

She explained the difference between tray, grab & go, a la carte.

Tray: Hot lunch has to consist of 5 items: protein, grain, veggie, fruit or juice and milk.

Grab & Go: cold lunch sometimes honey bun because meets the grain standard

A la carte: snacks and treats

She will provide a list of all grab & go items and a la carte items to SAC so parents are aware what is being sold in the school cafeteria.

There is a “share table” where a child can place unopen food that they did not eat. Other children may take any food on the share table to eat.

Participation in school is low so reimbursement rate is low. The sales from a la carte helps support the department.

She showed examples of Child Nutrition (CN) label on food. The website shows CN labels and how manufacturers need to meet all requirements in order to be approved to sell food to the schools. If standards change and become too strict then less vendors will provide for the schools.

She said that parents need to have an open dialog with children to limit amounts of snacks and treats they are purchasing.

She will implement a change to the parfaits to add granola instead of cereal to the yogurt.

She said that veggies and fruits are unlimited and child can purchase as much as they like, however to an extent. Child can not purchase more than 3 of same item. Fries are considered a starch and child can get only 1.

Mary Ann Goodwin asked if you can set your account on My Payments Plus to allow child to only have tray lunch or Grab & Go and NO snacks. Ms. Jackson said, " Yes, account can be set to NOT allow your child to purchase any A La Carte items."

She said that parents can customize their students lunch items by calling the food service employees to add notes to their student's account. For example, can only purchase 1 snack once a week on specific day. The newsletter has information for parents to call the food service employees and set up limits for your child.

Officer Mercy said that she eats lunch daily in the cafeteria with the children and she sees their excitement when after they eat their lunch they go back to buy their special treat. The child is able to make a decision for themselves and buy what they want and this is exciting for the younger ones.

Lisa Taylor: No child goes without a meal. If a child wants a second meal then there is an account that the food service employee uses to charge for that meal.

Ms. Jackson said that there is no longer "food shaming" allowed in the schools. Before, if the child has no money in their account then the child would get a cheese sandwich and all other children would know. This is not allowed and no child goes without a meal.

Ms. Taylor said that there was a \$5,000 debt from last year's cafeteria charges and the school paid it.

Ms. Jackson said that the state of Florida has a program that ALL students receive free lunch, however Monroe County doesn't qualify for this program. She asked SAC if we can get local politicians to call her to help with funding and donations.

She also said that she is working on Farm to School program. She is asking local farmers if they can supply food to her 10 sites in the keys. She said that there is a grant that can fund this program but she is having a hard time with local farmers calling her back and delivering to the keys is an obstacle.

SAC thanked Ms. Jackson for her time answering questions and explaining school lunch items.

Student Report

No student report

Teacher Report

Monica Horsely

Testing is going great. Progress Monitoring 2, PM2.

We like the testing window Thanksgiving to Christmas because can look at data in January.

Spirit week is next week, made it easy and simple so all students can participate.

Middle School market place is Friday, Dec 20. K-8 will have 30 min to shop and usually items cost \$1- 3. Middle schoolers will have a business conversation on how to successfully run a business.

Principal Report

Lisa Taylor

Aftercare has started at PKS and currently have 7 kids enrolled.

SAC would like to have an email sent out to parents stating that aftercare is open for enrollment.

The awnings are done on the playgrounds.

SIP

Lisa Taylor: We are in a holding pattern right now. We want our attendance to increase because we are currently in 4th place in the district. We want our ELA and Math scores to increase.

School safety

Mercy Guevera

An automated bomb threat was called into Marathon HS which turned out to be not credible.

All schools were on alert and an extra unmarked patrol car was sent to PKS.

Question was asked about a lockdown and Officer Mercy responded that a complete lockdown would close the school entirely and no parent would be able to get their child until lockdown was over. It is for child safety. The call to Marathon was an automated call that goes out to random schools and Marathon happened to receive it.

Lauren Dunn asked if parents were still using the bus loop and Officer Mercy said "Yes".

No parent should be in the bus loop at any time.

Academic Boosters

Lauren Dunn has motioned to remove Academic Boosters program from SAC agenda. If anyone would like to reinstate the program, SAC will welcome it back.

Old Business

Islamorada Daycare set to open next to the school. SAC has concerns about cars pulling into the center and backing up into the path of children walking to school. Lauren Dunn is asking owner to come speak to SAC about traffic and child safety at drop off and pick up times.

New Business

n/a

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm
Next meeting Jan 15th 6pm