

Freedom High School
School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes
FHS Monthly SAC Meeting
FHS Media Center
April 17, 2023

Attendance:

Bret Caffery, Ruth Caffery, Marisela Del Cid, Alicia Duarte, Turita Dudhnath, Audra Fresoli, Marion McKenzie, Cheryl Neely, Lourdes Rodriguez, Yamaris Rodriguez, Manuchitra Sannithi, Taye Valdez

Call to Order:

SAC Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

Marion McKenzie mentioned the improvement to the school Security Booth with the Patriot themed wrap. Principal Cheryl Neely and ESOL Compliance Specialist Yadira Lopez Nieves were also recognized for receiving Spirit of Excellence awards in support of our Emerging Bilingual Students. Assistant Principal Recognition Week was also celebrated April 3 – 7.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Approved by Marisela Del Cid, seconded by Audra Fresoli

SAFE Update

- 100% of our seniors experiencing homelessness will be graduating
- SAFE has sponsored Grad Bash, Prom and Senior Photos for these students
- A Social Media plan has been created for the upcoming year to improve communication
- Thank you to our community partners and local businesses for always answering the call for our most vulnerable students.
- Exercise for the end of the school year – Administration asked for three things you are proud of, two things to improve and one thing they are looking forward to. Will get SAFE's at a later date

SGA Update:

- Long Wednesday Spirit Days
 - May 3 – Star Wars Day: Light vs. Dark Side Day
 - May 10 – Float Away Day
- Multicultural Week will be celebrated April 17 – 21 with the Multicultural Fair happening Thursday, April 20, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Dress up Days that week include:
 - Monday – Jersey Day
 - Tuesday – Flag Colors Day
 - Wednesday – Tourist Day
 - Thursday – Culture Wear Day
- Voter Registration will happen on Thursday, April 20 during A & B lunch
 - 16 and 17 years olds can register to vote
 - Students must bring ID and have the last four digits of their SSN
- SGA Sign Up
 - Deadline is April 28th
 - Spots are only available for rising Sophomores and Juniors
- Elections will be held on Thursday, April 20 for class officers, student body executives and next year's Homecoming theme. Options for next year's theme are:
 - Around the World
 - Disco Fever
 - Gothic Mansion
 - Keep it Undercover
 - Music Mix Up
- 3 Things to be proud of
 1. Providing updates to SAC/PTSA
 2. Creating banners

- 3. Successfully leading a committee
- 2 Things to Improve
 1. Committing more time to advertise SAC/PTSA
 2. Identifying an improved system of communication with PTSA
- 1 Thing to look forward to
 1. Sharing existing work with new SAC/PTSA liaison to continue to use and meet future goals

Emergent Bilinguals Update

- 3 Things to be proud of
 1. Emerging Bilingual Family Academy Nights
 2. Academic Achievement Recognition (happening on April 26, students & teachers celebrated)
 3. Emerging Bilingual Mindset for teachers and staff (change mindset to be more positively focused)
- 2 Things to Improve
 1. Graduation readiness focus for Juniors and Seniors
 2. Specialized training for ESOL Paras
- 1 Thing to look forward to
 1. To continue to build upon the current initiatives and add new ones as needed to continue supporting Emerging Bilinguals.

Principal's Report - (Announcements/HR & Budget Updates)

- The budget for next year was presented and shown against the budget for the current year
 - Administration walked SAC through how the budget was determined
 - Loss of 7 Interventionalist positions – they were paid by COVID funds which are no longer in place
 - Some Interventionalists are going back into the classroom to teach
 - Two Interventionalist positions are staying
 - Geometry
 - Assist Juniors and Seniors at risk
 - One will continue working with ESOL students
 - The school is receiving about the same amount of money this year
- Pilot will be started on reducing class size; funded through grant
 - Average class size is 25-1, this pilot drops it to a 15-1 ratio
 - Will focus on Algebra classes and work more in small groups
- Also considering hiring an English 10 teacher to help with graduation requirements
- As a follow up to last month's SAC exercise, currently looking at Peer to Peer support
 - How to help students within subgroups?
 - Offer more opportunities for peer to peer tutoring
 - Work to change the mindset of the students
 - How do we make this work?
 - Currently have:
 - Science
 - Math – Mu Alpha Theta
 - Latinos in Action (LIA)
 - There is a need for:
 - National Honor Society – US History and Social Studies
 - English/Language Arts
 - Sponsor needed for National English Honors Society
- Received \$25,000 to purchase books
 - Suggestions also offered for online options
 - Beanstack (summer reading program)
 - Flocabulary (like Quizlet, but more fun)
 - Run by Nearpod, great for SAT vocabulary

Other Business

- May 15 is Freshman Orientation in the Performing Arts Center (PAC)
 - Our last SAC meeting is scheduled for that day as well
 - Vote was held and decision was made to move the SAC meeting to Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 pm
- How are tardies handled?
 - Administration will look at “decentralizing” the system
- No Senior has a GPA under 2.0

Meeting Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

Motioned by Bret Caffery, seconded by Marion McKenzie

Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location:

5/16/23 @ 6:00 – FHS Media Center – please note this is a **TUESDAY**

Submitted by: Ruth A. Caffery, SAC Secretary