



Victory Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Members present:

Mr. Wray – Principal
Mrs. Koscinski – Assistant Principal
Mrs. Kuglistsh – School Parent Liaison
Mrs. Cypher – 4th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Shipp – 1st Grade Teacher
Mrs. Rickard – Parent of 1st Grade and 5th Grade students
Dr. Azefor – Parent of 4th Grade student
Mrs. Biswas – Parent of 2nd Grade student
Mrs. Jednat – School Counselor
Mrs. Kiser – School Counselor
Mrs. Clark – Parent of 3rd and 5th grade students

The meeting started with Mrs. Kuglistsh sharing the Superintendents Advisory Council Minutes that Mrs. Correa-Brady provided.

Budget questions that were posed at the Victory ES PTO meeting in February.

- The CEP program will continue next year (the program could expand to additional schools). Federal cuts to the budget may have an impact on the program.
- Any PWCS school wanting a math specialist will need to reach out to their level associate. The Title I grant money that funds positions like math specialists/education coach is allocated based on status, as well as need. Studies were done to examine which schools needed this intervention the most (low test scores, percentage of students on IEPs, etc.) and the schools that received them had to get money from grants, which usually means that schools cannot share people in these positions. That said, more schools should be receiving math specialists/education coaches next year.
- Many questions were posed regarding federal funding, given political climate/dismantling of Department of Education)
 - o Federal funding funds three areas:
 - ♣ Food assistance -Title I -Title 6 – Special Education While the loss of federal funding would be problematic (2% of the budget, \$48 million), guest speakers were more concerned about the possibility of recession.

The March 2025 meeting was the last of the informative sessions for SACI. The next sessions will be all about making our voices heard.

- We will start by talking about what is going well.
- Given our current economic situation, we will want to address what we absolutely do not want cut, should our budget drastically decrease.

The April session of SACI will be attended by Dr. McDade. There will be a Q&A with her and then a work session. Mrs. Correa-Brady will ask questions based on topics of concern at the next VTES PTO meeting or she can be reached via email at callacorreabrady@gmail.com

Changes to SACI Policies include:

Recommendation:

- 3 student representatives (must apply, must be HS juniors/seniors, each one represents a different area of the county)
- SACI meeting recordings must be open (will not change what occurs during a meeting as the council is already very transparent and shares the SACI notes and recommendations.)
- 2026 Budget Timeline:
 - o March 19- School Board approves budget/CIP
 - o April 1-School Board budget presentation to BOCS
 - o April 22-BOCS budget approval

Mr. Wray:

- Budget was received in February.
- Victory ES turned around and submitted the following week which is required
- The county will finalize their budget in April
- Until the School Board completes and finalizes their budget, Victory ES cannot finalize theirs.
- School budget is based on # of projected students to be enrolled
 - o Positions come out of the fixed allocations such as the
 - ♣ Math specialists
 - ♣ Liaison
 - o Counseling and Teaching positions are based on student enrollment
 - o A ratio of 25:1 pays for 1 teacher
 - o Student # increase and decrease throughout the school year.
 - ♣ In the past 2 weeks Victory ES has enrolled 7 3rd graders
- In preparation for the next school year, we begin to evaluate the current year student #'s with expected enrolment.
 - o The most difficult to project is Kindergarten.
 - ♣ Each year the projected numbers are higher than the actuals
 - o Considering the size of the 2nd grade this year, the current 4 3rd grade teaching positions may be decreased to 3.
 - o As soon as a grade indicates higher numbers, transfers are closed.
 - o Myths of budgets
 - ♣ More programs mean more monetary benefits for the school.
 - The programs are labor intensive
 - \$'s are scrutinized
 - o Currently Victory ES has
 - ♣ 3 Autism programs
 - ♣ 1 Intellectual Disabilities program
 - ♣ 1 6/6 preschool program (6 typical peers/6 non-typical peers)
 - The 6/6 program will be relocated to a school that has more need. Victory did not have enough students this year to sustain its return next year.

- o Considering a math specialist
 - ♣ Possibility of sharing a math specialist with Bristow Run ES for the 25-26 SY
 - We would have them 2 days per week
 - Finding the funding is challenging
- o 95% of the budget is allocated for staff- which includes teachers and substitute teachers
 - ♣ Victory ES stays at 96.4%, which is acceptable and allows for adjustments due to changes in enrollment and limiting over staffing teachers
- o This year's focus was literacy. Next year's focus will be on math.
 - ♣ Currently the county is adopting a new math textbook
 - ♣ Mrs. Buzzard, the kindergarten lead, is on the adoption committee.
- o When developing the budget, some key considerations for next year are the hiring of a reading specialist, a math specialist and new math books.
 - ♣ Mrs. Elmore, Victory's financial specialist, is conscientious of the budgetary needs of Victory and ensures we stay in our financial safe space.
- o Victory's Parent Teacher Organization, PTO is always willing to assist with financial needs
 - ♣ This year they helped purchase a much-needed tiller for the custodial staff costing about \$800.00.
 - Mulching the playgrounds to a specified expectation is difficult with a pitchfork. Especially when done in the extreme heat of August.
 - ♣ They are bringing Raging Reptiles to Victory ES and covering the cost.
 - ♣ Mrs. Elmore is thankful to the PTO for always following protocol and having requirements in place prior to the events.
 - ♣ Mrs. Rickard expressed gratitude for bringing wonderful events to the school.
 - ♣ Subscriptions to programs have been purchased for the school for use in the classrooms next year.
- o VDOE is not making changes to the Science or Social Studies curriculum for the 25-26 SY.
- o Classroom Roster Development
 - ♣ Look at groups of similar peers
 - Gifted
 - Special Education
 - o Look at instructional needs
 - o There are SpEd students that will push into the general ed classes, so they need to be considered in class sizes.
 - ESOL
 - o Grouped in proficiency of language level
 - o Usually, two classes per grade level are dedicated to the ESOL classes
 - ♣ Dynamics of all the groups are considered

- Behaviors
 - Parent Requests
 - Academics
 - Balance of Boys and Girls
- ♣ When students are grouped, they are done without a teacher's name.
- ♣ In April a Microsoft form will be made available for parents to request the type of class/teacher they are looking to best work with their child.
- ♣ Teacher assignments are not made available to the parent until the back-to-school packet is completed in Parent Vue.
- Next Meeting April 15, 2025 at 6:00pm
 - o Topics of Discussion
 - ♣ Master Schedule
 - Future development of schedules
 - ♣ Updates to Federal Funding
 - ♣ Field Trips
 - Meaningful
 - Affordable
 - Suggested
 - o TechLab at Cedar Point
 - o Hylton Planetarium
 - PTO involvement
 - Transportation
 - o Charter vs. school buses

