

Porter Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda

November 16th, 2023

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:03.

II. New Business

- Ms. Mere's noted that the reviewing staff recommend moving citizen comment time to the last 15 minutes of the meeting to encourage conversation based on the information shared.
- Ms. Meres noted that the PAC needs a Vice Chairperson. Interested candidates may email Ms. Meres.
- **Budget Review:**
 - Recently received final budget based on September 30 student count. Absorbed FTEs and additional supports needed, including TAs. Noted that flex funds are impacted. Overall budget is impacted as well. The school is currently funding all field trips. As a consequence, longer distance field trips are out of reach from a budgetary perspective. Goal is to absorb all costs of field trips for all grades
 - Awarded \$40,000 for tutoring services. Students below grade level are offered support one to two times per week. This will wrap up ARPA funds.
- **Report Cards- Quarter 1**
 - Went live on ParentVue today. There was an admin error in pushing them out 11/15, but they are available as of 11/16 in the documents section.
- **Parent Data- Quarter 1**
 - One goal for strategic plan we have 3 commitments: 1) Learning and achievement for all – focusing on students with disabilities and ELL for performance on SOLs; 2) Positive climate and culture: data driven approach to assessing student feelings of safety in school; 3) Family and community engagement.

- For the third commitment we did a Quarter 1 survey to families. Principal noted PAC input is desired on how to increase participation and address concerns.
 - 47 parents out of 686 students participated.
 - The group discussed how the school could increase participation. Suggestions offered included:
 - Perhaps reconsider the timing of the message so it doesn't get lost in communication.
 - Communications strategy: Advertising upcoming survey and encouraging participation.
 - Enlist student support to gain parent participation. Perhaps attach an incentive.
 - Listing "Action Items" in a newsletter or other communication
 - Concerns noted in current survey:
 - Lack of a variety of extracurricular activity offerings.
 - Noted that the school is expanding offerings but the school needs engagement on what parents would like to see.
 - Results of survey were reviewed.
 - Opportunities for student service and feeling welcome at school are two focus areas.
 - Service opportunity suggestion offered: Parents lack an understanding of where there are opportunities for kids to participate. Consider adding opportunities to PTO agenda and developing a specific communications plan to advertise opportunities.
 - Feeling welcomed:
 - Consider more effective meet and greet opportunities for students and parents.
 - Consider student ambassadors
- **Porter's 2024- 2025 Application Process**
 - Application link goes live 12/1. Applications can be taken through the PWC Specialty Program process and to school.
 - Anticipate updates from Superintendent's office communicating what specialty programs are being offered. There will be updates to the regulations.
 - Admin noted that transfers can be revoked.
- **Attendance**
 - Attendance policies were discussed. Principal noted that the State is under review regarding chronic absenteeism, which is 10 absences or more. Experiencing a high percentage of absences. Chronic absenteeism can be a basis to revoke transfers.

- 8th Grade Sweatshirts – It was noted that these have been ordered.
- CIP- Parent Feedback Survey - Discussed
- Parent Handbook –
 - Ms. Mears recapped prior discussion at last meeting. PAC decided to use the feedback from last session to begin drafting an outline of the table of contents and share with PAC.
- Superintendent Representative
 - Ms. Dinarte reported the following matters were discussed:
 - Superintendent’s goal is to implement uniform standards. It was noted that PWC is the most diverse county in the state and 10th in the country. Goal is to remove barriers by providing services like translation services. PWC has experienced 42% growth in ELL students and a 55% growth in economically disadvantaged students.
 - Additional goal is to prepare students for all postsecondary options. Students need to have options explained so effective choices can be made.
 - Interventions need tracking to support students.
 - Security services are also a focus.
 - Parent liaison is for remedial support and to support accessing resources.

III. Counseling Department

- Ms. Festa provided an overview of RAMP – Recognized AsCA Model Program. ASCA stands for the American School Counseling Association. RAMP is a streamlined process to provide data driven approaches.
- Ms. Meres discussed the CIP goals and how RAMP can align to those goals
 - Climate & Culture –
 - Surveys will be done each quarter to assess student feelings.
 - SEL Night
- What Additional Supports Do Your Students Need?

IV. Upcoming Events

- Porter Information Nights
 - Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30 pm
 - Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 pm

- School counseling vision: MGP students are responsible decision makers, adaptable problem solvers, persistent leaders, future-oriented learners and dedicated citizens in our community.
- School Counseling Mission (not fully stated here, but will be posted online): MGP Counseling Mission – Counseling team provides an accessible and equitable comprehensive school counseling program that supports every students academic, career and social / emotional needs.
- Noted that SEL Night will be January 30th at 6:30 pm
- Counseling Department sought parent input:
 - Suggested to create a program for parents and students to discuss puberty related issues.

V. Open Chair Time (15 Minutes)

- Parent noted that some new parents didn't feel welcome. Parent noted that he suggested parents join PTO.
- Principal noted that this will be a focus area moving forward.
- Youth News and World Report – Ranks schools on a variety of criteria. MGP middle and Elementary school are ranked #1 in PWC. Middle school is #4 in state of VA.

VI. Next Meeting:

- January TBD

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:30