

## Parent Advisory Council Meeting

October 22, 2024

The meeting convened at 6:32 and called to order

### I Introductions

### II New Business

- The PAC reviewed the Bylaws and were encouraged to provide suggestions. Of note, there was recent update to the membership and positions.
  - o Ms. Stewart agreed to continue her role as Chairperson. The role requires running the meetings, assisting with the agenda and supporting administration with the PAC.
  - o Vice Chairperson – Ms. Adkins volunteered to serve as Vice Chairperson
  - o Secretary – Ms. Redd agreed to continue as the Secretary
- The PAC discussed the meeting schedule and format (in-person or zoom) and time. A survey will be sent out for the forum and time options. Currently the meetings are the third Thursday of the month and via Zoom at 6:30. Participants are encouraged to respond to the survey.
- The Parent Handbook was discussed. The PAC will also receive a copy of the table of contents to provide input on. The Handbook idea originated from focus group feedback to provide a one-stop-shop for quick access to information such as attendance, resources, volunteer hours, etc. The goal is to have a final draft by the end of the year for consideration and adoption by the PAC.
- Family Engagement & Communication Updates:
  - o One of the strategic plan commitments is family engagement. Porter is monitoring data through quarterly parent survey where we get great ideas for school improvements. For example, feedback from last year was that first-grade parents didn't feel like there was a great orientation into Porter. As a result, we had 2 great events over summer for incoming new first graders as well as a specific orientation. Student Ambassadors got involved as well to support first graders.
  - o This year the first quarter survey we received feedback that technology support was needed on Canvas and other resources for parents. Porter is implementing those suggestions and providing supports.
  - o November 13 is the multicultural night.
  - o 2024 is Porter's 20<sup>th</sup> year so we expect a Porter Gives Back service project to celebrate that anniversary.
  - o Superintendent Rep Update
    - First meeting held 10/10
    - Reviewed standards of excellence for high functioning advisory councils
    - Role of parents to advise and ask questions. The SACI's are working on a long-term vision.
    - Dr McDade will present at the November SAC meeting
    - Please send questions for next month meeting to Ms. Denarte

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- Back to School Nights
  - Attendance was low. PAC asked for feedback.
  - PAC members suggested that Porter evaluate the format: more individual classroom presentations.
  - PAC members suggested that Porter review the communication strategy for notifying parents of the event.
- Car Line:
  - The car line is currently functioning well. Starting a minute early seems to be helping.
- VGA testing
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> tested for Math only. PWC requested not to give reading VGA in fall and winter because other assessments are ongoing. Parent reports for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> will go home during parent / teacher conferences. Other assessment reports will go out Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Evolv Screeners
  - Students are doing well with the screening procedures. Screening was implemented last year so we're doing great just 1 year out.
- Parent Liaison:
  - Ms. Johnson is an amazing resource to help connect Porter community to resources. She is the primary POC for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in May 10<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to have a block party! Look out for volunteer opportunities!
  - Porter will receive a plaque from PWC to honor Mary G. Porter's effort to desegregate PWC schools.

### III. Continuous Improvement Plan

- Focus on 3 commitments:
  - Learning and achievement for all: 85 % of students to pass SOLs. Porter is a fully accredited school and pass rates surpass in all areas. 20% growth in ESOL and SpEd Math. Focused on remediation and retake strategies which has paid dividends. Tutoring will continue with renewed focus.
  - Positive climate and culture: Goal is to have 90% satisfaction rate at all levels. Middle school we were at 55%. Middle grades across the board are struggling to create that positive. Ron Clark Academy House System – focuses on building collaboration and community: Endeavor, Valor, Unity and Radiance. These are the attributes for students to achieve and strive towards.

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- Elementary focusing on class meetings – Prevention and reaction is the focus. Bullying is also a focus.
  - At a future PAC meeting the PAC will have a chance to review and provide feedback on the survey questions. The data could be skewed based on the questions and student understanding of what the terms mean and intent of the question.
- Family and community engagement – See earlier notes.

### IV. Counseling Department

- RAMP application pending and we hope to have results soon
- Thomas Jefferson Information Night – Hosted 2 weeks ago. 135 families attended and provide information about application and direction of the program. Other schools participated so families could get access to information.
- Bullying Awareness Program – Student education and engagement is ongoing.
- Red Ribbon Week: Program explained
- Career Day October 25<sup>th</sup>

### V. Citizen Comment Time:

- PAC attendee: Mentioned Career Day options that are presented by other schools. Presentations are made at booths and parents present. Admin noted that there will be some experiences provided and we seek engagement from community providers. But we're always looking for more connections. Please make a suggestion and we'll see what we can implement.
- PAC attendees encouraged to provide suggestions by email and keep lines of communication open.
- Start time in the morning is under review. This would allow for earlier release and facilitate student participation in extracurricular activities.
- PAC member asked what color jeans have to be on jeans day. Any color is acceptable as long as there are no holes.

Meeting closed at 7:25.