

## Peterson PAC Organizational Meeting

Date: October 4, 2018

Time: 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

### Total Present: 20

Sarah Colella, Whitney Norris, Nameer Al Ali, Jenise Celestin, Natalie Rodgers, Tamarna Begum, Wajeeha Razi, Samia El Habli, Anne Patel, Dana Pietrini, Melina Faburada, Lynda Gibson, Michelle Nickerson, Rachida Dini, Jose Moreno, Bethany Elston, Kirsten Havens, Jacqueline Mueller, Sabiha Vohra, Catherine Korda

Peterson administrators & staff present: Yalil Nieves (Assistant Principal), Nadir Elmasri (Resident Principal), Charles Deters (Technology Coordinator), Carina Martino (Counselor), Michael Coleman (Counselor)

Parent Advisory Council (PAC): The PAC was created to help support the role of parents and the school as equal partners in children's education. The primary purpose of the PAC is to empower families to inspire and assist their children in achieving their educational goals.

There were 4 key agenda items for this meeting:

1. PAC Officer Elections
2. ESL Classes for parents/caregivers
3. Math Night
4. Presentation: Understanding the BAS and NWEA MAP Assessments

### **details for all agenda items are provided below**

- The call to order and welcome was completed by PAC Chair, Catherine Korda. Refreshments were provided for today's meeting.
- 2018-2019 Elected PAC Officers (completed by Assistant Principal, Yalil Nieves)
  - Chair: Catherine Korda
  - Vice-Chair: Rachida Dini
  - Secretary: Lynda Gibson
  - Outreach Coordinator: Nameer Al Ali
- PAC is working on offering ESL classes for parents/caregivers. Sign-up for ESL classes can be completed online. A survey with more information and to help determine best time(s) for classes are available on Peterson website in English, Spanish, Arabic & Urdu. For more information, contact PAC Chair Catherine Korda or Assistant Principal Yalil Nieves.
- Math Night—October 18, 2018: Event will include presentation by staff/admin about math curriculum and dinner will also be provided. Children & parents will be separated by grade level to discuss curriculum in more detail and play math games. Vote and approval was completed today by those in attendance to use up to \$700 in PAC funds for Math Night.
- Assistant Principal Yalil Nieves provided an overview of the NWEA MAP & Benchmark Assessment Systems (BAS). Parents in attendance were provided a copy of their child's NWEA scores to review.
  - BAS is a literacy assessment administered individually to each student by the classroom teacher three times each year. It consists of two parts: (1) student reads to teacher one-on-one; and (2) depending on the student's accuracy and fluency, he/she may be asked reading comprehension

questions. Throughout the assessment, the teacher records the readers behaviors (does the child read with fluency and accuracy, does the child sound out words, what kind of errors does the child make). At end of assessment, the teacher has a better understanding about what level the child is reading at. Examples of books at each level were available for parents to review.

- NWEA MAP is a computerized adaptive assessment that measures your student's skills in reading, language use, math, and general science. Each session contains approximately 52 questions. The assessment is personalized to every student to measure the academic needs of each individual learner. THE NWEA is not a timed test and is administered at the beginning, middle, and end of the year to measure growth and set goals for each student. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and new students take at the beginning of year. 3<sup>rd</sup> and higher take the assessment at middle and end of year (scores from the previous year used as reference at beginning of year). The NWEA MAP test is Common Core aligned and provides normative data, with immediate results and detailed reports for parents. It also allows teachers the opportunity to understand the student's needs and strengths. If your child is performing at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, that means that they are performing at grade level. 51<sup>st</sup> percentile and over (above grade level); 49<sup>th</sup> percentile and lower (below grade level). When students are performing lower than the normative average, interventions are put in place to help with academic progress.
  - In addition to these tests, teachers are constantly observing and assessing the students' academic progress to make decisions regarding academic progress and if intervention/additional help is needed.
  - Useful links related to understanding test scores and curriculum practice/assistance:
    - [www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com)
    - [www.Edhelper.com](http://www.Edhelper.com)
    - [www.Aaamath.com](http://www.Aaamath.com)
- Parents can sign out books provided by the PAC lending library. The library includes books about topics that may be difficult for parents to discuss with children (grief, puberty, etc.)
  - Volunteers are always needed to help with school events, chaperone trips, or help in the classroom. To volunteer, all adults must complete the CPS online application (which includes a background check) and bring a copy of their ID to the main office. Parents that would like to volunteer in classrooms as parent coordinator can contact teachers directly but will also need to complete online CPS volunteer application. For access to the online application and more information on getting involved at Peterson, visit website: <http://www.peterson.cps.edu/volunteer/>

#### Upcoming PAC Meetings & Events

10/18 Math Night 5:30-7:30PM (volunteers needed, contact Catherine Korda)  
11/1 PAC Meeting 8:45AM  
12/6 PAC Meeting 8:45AM  
1/31 Literacy Night 5:00PM

#### Additional Peterson Meetings & Events

10/11 PTA Meeting 8:45AM  
10/26 International Night 5:30-7:30PM (volunteers needed, contact Arielle Dachman)

*ESEA Title I Part A Funds were used to support this activity*