

# **Bristow Run Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Thursday, December 7, 2023**

#### **Attendees**

Erinn Mulligan  
Jessica Kilpatrick  
Angelita Gamble  
Amie Francis  
Mike Ciampaglione  
Brian Hall  
Tom Spavone  
Jimmy Moore  
Amanda Scholl  
Kate Danziger  
Vanessa Olson  
Tiffinni Hargrave  
Kathrin Goodman  
Gary Shivers  
Tommy Cureton  
Susie Adib  
Tania Flores  
Robert Scott

#### **Call to Order**

6:02 pm Call to order by Erinn

#### **Approval of Previous Month's Minutes**

- A few name misspellings were noted. Kathrin Goodman motioned to approve, Mike Ciampaglione seconded.

#### **Citizen's Time**

- Kathrin Goodman: Do we really struggle at an elementary school level with absenteeism? Asking because of the absence letters that went out this week.
  - o Answer: Yes. Overall for our school we are not at risk, we are generally at 6-7%, but we do have some students who miss quite a few days. Also, the letter that went out was division wide.
- Tiffinni Hargrave: I saw that Fairfax County cancelled the code orange days, it's just a snow day not a learn from home day. Any chance of that happening in PWCS?
  - o Answer: I don't know right now but I will look into it. Vanessa Olsen said to the best of her knowledge there is nothing in discussion. Code orange should be replacing our 2 hour delays, but not taking away the code red days.

## SCA

- SCA wants to do a highlight on how families celebrate the holidays, so families are welcome to turn in a poster to show what they do. Does not just have to be winter holidays, can be any holiday, even a birthday, etc.
- We voted on t-shirt designs, Mrs. Roche designed them.
- We are doing a hot chocolate fundraiser on Dec. 19
- We will be doing multicultural night again this year in the spring.
- Working on a care package fundraiser to donate to Children's Hospital. Info for that coming in January.

## Principals Time

- The robotics team made it to state level competition, and it was historic because both of our teams were recognized.
- "One School One Book" this year is Zoe & Sassafrass Marshmallows. Because of the \$5K grant we were awarded thanks to Christine Martin (our reading specialist) every student will get their own copy of the book without having to pay.
- The chorus and strings concert is coming up December 19, doors open at 6:30, concert starts at 7.
- The spelling bee will be held in January but applications are due in December.
- We aren't really getting enough responses on the Divisionwide Parent Survey to properly show statistical information. Did some brainstorming on how we can increase responses.
  - o Tommy Cureton asked if we are allowed to remind other parents via our own neighborhood FB pages, and the answer is yes.
  - o Erinn Mulligan wondered if there could be QR codes posted at an event near the survey, or maybe if there is a way to express to parents how the data is used and why it's important to fill out the surveys.
  - o Tania Flores said we were discussing the possibility of telling parents what the council is and how it's important for parents to get involved. Maybe offer it in multiple languages so parents at home who don't speak English can understand the importance.
  - o Ms. Gamble noted that the division wide survey is a personal link that is sent to each individual so we can't share a QR code, we can just remind people to click on the link and complete the survey.
  - o Susie Adib suggested asking teachers to mention it to parents at teacher conferences.
  - o Gary Shivers asked if in past years we included a paper handout reminder to parents, and if we haven't it's a good way for parents to see.
  - o Mike Ciampaglione suggested an incentive like if we get 60% responses from the whole school we can do something, it's a way for the kids to encourage the parents to fill them.
- Safety presentations
  - o Brian Hall
    - Is one of the community safety officers that works for the whole school district.
    - The program started in 2019 and he's been working with Mrs. Jeck since them.

- VA code states retired police officers can be armed safety officers.
- It started with 3 safety officers, there are now 8 and can have up to 12.
- Officers aren't assigned to a particular school, they break the county up into areas and rotate the schools visited.
- When they visit they park as far away as possible so everyone can see they are at the school.
- All their training comes from Prince William Police Department and they are assigned to the police radio system so they know where our safety officers are at any given time.
- Tom Spavone
  - Was a US Capitol police for 20 years before retiring.
  - His daughter actually attended Bristow Run as a student.
  - He is here to protect the staff and students to the best of his abilities.
  - Kathrin Goodman asked if Tom works with Watch D.O.G.s when they are on the property. The answer is yes, we have a Watch D.O.G. one almost every day, they do secondary checks of the school after they spend time with their kids.
- Robert Scott
  - He lives on our property and has lived here for about 13 months.
  - He also works at Gainesville HS.
  - Around 10pm and 5am he checks the perimeter, in the morning he checks the inside of the building for temperature, doors and windows, etc.
  - We don't nearly have the issues here that other schools in the county do. At night the most he's had to do is ask kids to go home if they are on the playground too late at night.
- We do have a crisis team at the school as well who are available if there is an incident in the building. Risk Management has come over to do training and walk the building with us so we have the best preparation.

### **Committee Updates**

- PTO: Pictures have been moved to spring because of scheduling misunderstanding. Families are invited to our vendor fair at only \$25 a table instead of \$50 which is what local businesses need to pay. Planning on a movie night in February, and Boosterathon in March.
- SACI: The last meeting discussed the PWCS Thriving Future Strategic Plan, which they hope to complete by 2025. Data is available on the back of the agenda. Vanessa Olson is here visiting and is available after the meeting if you have any questions for her. On the PWCS website you can find data to compare schools and areas, and the minutes will eventually be available online once they are approved. Next week's SACI meeting is about special education.

### **Adjournment**

- Gary Shivers motioned to adjourn at 7:08 pm, seconded by Susie Adib.