

February 26, 2018 VLMS SAC Minutes

VLMS SAC Meeting Minutes	2/26/18 meeting called to order at 6:08 pm
Topic	Minutes
Welcome & Call to Order	Mrs. Saunders:
Testing Preparation: Mrs. Shelton, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Barrero, Ms. Turner, Mr. Stoker	<p>Thank you all for coming. All of the testing dates are posted on the back of the agenda. The next 2 months are very important. You can practice at home with your students. That is what tonight is all about. Different teachers will give you information tonight about testing. The writing exam is right around the corner. Please make sure students are present during those days. Please do not make appointments during that time. Students need to be here on time. They will not be permitted to take the test late. Test are different according to grade level. Eighth grade is a computer based essay for FSA Writes. Sixth and seventh grade is still paper based. All reading tests will be computer based for all grades. Practice reading tests will be provided to students. Topics covered will be key idea and details, craft and structure, etc. Most questions will be text-dependent, some will be multi-step questions. Students will have to break down the question and look for what you have to answer. Parents can help their children by reading various texts, which will prepare them. Review and talk about what the children read, summarizing and explaining the meaning of the text. Writing test will be an argumentative or informative essay based on 2-4 reading passages. The test will be 120 minutes long, in which time students will need to read, analyze, plan and write the essay. Students will be provided a mock FSA to practice. Fsassessments.org and readworks.org are helpful website to practice for the test. Math and Algebra: Ms Ferrero presented the dates for testing. 6th, 7th and 8th grade will have three 60 minuite sessions. 6th grade will not be provided with calculators, 6th grade should focus on equations. 7th grade should focus on ratios and proportions, and 8th grade will focus on equations. Ten marks (Jam sessions) are helpful for practicing. Khan academy (through youtube) is a great resoruce for learning concepts. Tutoring will be provided in the school after school. Reading will impact student performance in math tests as well. Ms. Ferrero presented the class progression plan depending on the math classes taken in middle school, the FSA achievement levels, and previous FSA VLM performance. Ms Fisher gave information on before and after school tutoring. (MW after school). Students in the lowest 25% echelon received permission slips for tutoring. Paper based and computer based practice tests are available for students. CIVICS: Ms Turner presented Civics assessment general information. The assessment is 30% of the student's overall civics grade. The test is broken up in 4 categories, which were provided in the handout. Most of the test will be based on analyzing and explaining. High level questions will be included in the test as well. Reading is crucial to perform well in the test. Sample questions and test will be provided, as well as test-taking strategies. Reading charts, graphs and diagrams will be included in the test as well. USA test prep includes preparation help for the Civics assessment. There are tools for practicing and videos that explain the subject. SCIENCE Mr. Stoker presented</p>

	<p>2018 Science FSA. 8th grade Science test will include material from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Science teachers are wrapping up the 8th grade material to allow for practice for the test. The test consists of about 60 multiple choice questions, review material will be provided to students. Tutoring will not be provided this year. USA test prep and Performance Matters are tools used by teachers to prepare students. Castle accounts are set up for all students and show student performance. USA Test prep helps students prepare, 8th graders should have all 'dots' filled in. Dots show the progress of the student. Slides presented during the meeting will be linked on the school website for parents to review. Teachers explained that middle school tests do not determine whether a student is retained in a grade, but they determine the classes they will be allowed to take in the future. Students with an IEP or 504 plan will be given required allowances for test-taking.</p>
DAC Report	<p>Ms Shelton explained the District is reviewing their Vision 2020 goals and wanted some feedback on how schools are doing to reach 4 goals: increase student achievement, retaining effective employees, become a modern organization, increase parent involvement. A school board member talked with attendees, strengths and weaknesses were discussed. Strengths included some parent involvement, as well as resources such as Castle. Weaknesses included transportation (bussing). School security was discussed and individual issues with certain schools. Parents are welcome at the District Advisory Committee meetings (1 week before school SAC meeting).</p>
School Update	<p>Dr. Medeiros presented the school update. Reading tutoring is available as well as math tutoring. L25 students will receive the permission slip to attend tutoring to improve reading skills. Close reading skills will be the focus to improve student scores. Grade level texts will be presented to students to prepare them for the test. Sales Tax Referendum was discussed as well as the benefits that would come from passing the referendum, which was discussed as well in the DAC meeting. 8 new schools are required in the coming year and Capital Funds are lacking. Overcrowding is an issue in all schools given the population growth in the district. A-B Honor roll ceremonies will be conducted this week to celebrate high-achieving students. Victor Woods will speak to students in tomorrow's student assembly about bullying and personal responsibilities. Mr. Woods is a renowned speaker and brings a unique perspective for students. The school is trying to focus on social, emotional and learning skills, which help students be well-rounded and more successful. A lock-down drill was conducted last Thursday and was successful. The Sheriff's department K-9 unit went through the school and no incidents were reported. Tutoring will be at 7:45 to 8:45 in the morning and will be free and only for remedial skills. Regular academic assistance is every week Monday through Thursday 4:15 to 5:15. Tutoring permission slips were sent home with L25 students.</p>
Good of the Order	<p>Next SAC meeting will be March 26th, the school will try to get someone to talk about the referendum</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm by Ms. Shelton</p>
	<p>Administrators in attendance: Dr. Medeiros, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Padilla</p>