



## **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes:**

This council will meet every other month via zoom with the next meeting being, January 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Parents Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 19th, 2024

6: 00PM, Via Zoom

Attendees: Elizabeth Johnson, Yauri Dalencour, LaShawna Norman, Janet Maresh, Hailey Helton, Emily Sachs, Sarah Germek, Erin Heltzel

Call to order at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, Principal of Alvey Elementary school introduced herself and Yauri Dalencour, Chairperson of Advisory Council. Mrs. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2024, meeting, Yauri Dalencour seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**SAC Updates:** Mrs. Dalencour turned the meeting over to LaShawna Norman for updates from the Superintendents Advisory Council meetings. Mrs. Norman stated she has attended two meetings since the last PAC meeting in September. At the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting there were elections for open positions and there were discussions on how to run a high functioning PAC: there needs to be consistency, open forum, advertised schedule, transparency, grade level representatives and diversity. Mrs. Norman discussed that Alvey did not have enough meetings scheduled for the year to get the point for frequency of meetings scheduled. Mrs. Johnson interjected that a new meeting has been added to the calendar for June 3, 2025, to meet this requirement and have a 25-26 Focus Meeting for the new school year.

**SAC Updates:** Mrs. Norman attended her second meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> which was on the State of School given by the Associate Superintendent of Reading and Learning. It was discussed that Prince William County is the most diverse school system in the Commonwealth. An email has been sent to families about the selection of the new math curriculum. Prince William County outperformed with pass rates in state. Second graders performed below HMH on or above grade level from last year. Teachers are continually getting ongoing training for the Virginia Literacy programs for grades K-8. There was an increase in the gifted programs. Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) reported that the absentee rate includes excused and unexcused absences, however it has decreased to 16.2%. Our next meeting will be in December and will discuss the assessments students are given.

**Staff and Budget:** The 24-25 budget was finalized in mid-November we knew we had a decrease in enrollment across the board in General Education, Special Education and our Gifted program. This was the result in the loss of a teacher, teacher assistant and a gifted part time teacher. Alvey had to give back \$210,000 for these staff members out of our projected budget. Alvey has a working budget of 6.5 million with 95% going to staffing and 5% used to run the day-to-day at school. Alvey is in good shape, we have upgraded custodial equipment, and we are being mindful about spending. The fortunate thing is that the county has purchased all the instructional materials needed for all students to include HMH, Zearn, and Lexia. The county will also purchase next year's new math curriculum as well so this will not affect our school budget. Mrs. Dalencour asked the question how the budget would work moving forward into the spring and summer with projections of students and changes in the gifted classes, etc. Mrs. Johnson explained that in May a budget is projected in a draft form and throughout the summer it is just projections on enrollment and placement based on testing, etc.

**VLA and Math:** Mrs. Johnson introduced Linsey Norton Alvey's Reading Specialist to assist in explaining the new VALS and VALLSS for Prince William County. Virginia Literacy Act (VALS) is for K-8 and is aimed at improving reading skills and Virginia Language & Literacy Screening (VALLSS) is a screening tool used in school for grades K-3 to assess the early language and literacy skills of students.

VALLSS screener: decoding, encoding, language comprehensive piece. Once students are screened, they are broken into bands: high, moderate and low. Early intervention plans are developed for students in the high-risk bands.

Teachers have access to guided literacy instruction, assessments and HMH projections.

K-5 HMH (Science and Reading): provides direct instruction, systemic way of teaching, skills are built on each other.

Teachers are given high quality materials and ongoing teacher training with this program.

**Family and Community Engagement Events:** Mrs. Johnson reported for Mrs. Hedrick on the events so far. Multicultural Night is tomorrow, November 20<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day Breakfast was where we announced our Purple Star designation, ongoing clubs Chess Club with Regency Partners, Willing Warriors event in the Spring. However, we want to also focus on instructional events for families: Upcoming events – Literacy Night, Math Night and a Technology piece as well. This will help our parents to understand what our students are learning and how to assist them at home.

**Open Time Q&A:** Mrs. Dalencour opened the floor for Q&A. Mrs. Norman added from her SAC meeting some fast facts:

PWCS is 32% division size nationally

PWCS is the 10<sup>th</sup> most diverse school system in the US

PWCS has a little under 92,000 students currently enrolled

Mrs. Dalencour asked about the status of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trips. She understands the current policy the county has on trips and equality. She asked if they could have a onsite field trip from

a company or will the Reagan middle school field trip count as their one trip? Mrs. Johnson stated that yes onsite field trips can be submitted, and staff have been passing along information to teachers. She stated that the county would like all grade levels to go on field trips as it enhances their instructional time.

**Next Meeting Date: January 21st, 2025:** Via: Zoom Meeting at 6:00PM.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30 PM