

# S.A.C. MINUTES

## Ventura Elementary

*Date | time* 9/16/2014 3:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Mr. Scott Clark, principal

### Welcome

Mr. Clark welcomed attendees and introduced Mrs. Joyce Pesantez as the new A.P. of Ventura Elementary. All attendees were invited to introduce themselves and how they are associated with the school. Ms. Karen Nash offered to be the SAC chairperson. Mr. Clark explained that many members of last year's committee were no longer at Ventura and positions would need to be filled for this year. Ms. Nash explained that this year's goal is to have decisions made by parents and staff together, and to increase parent involvement in such decisions.

### Nominations

Ms. Mala Cruz nominated Ms. Nash as chairperson, Ms. Celia Camacho for secretary and Ms. Deborah Casey as treasurer. Motion second by Ms. Kristen Cruz and Ms. Camacho. Motion passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

- A. Ms. Casey reported a balance of \$10, 008.48 from last year. Mr. Clark clarified that the use of these funds must be tied to the School Improvement Plan. Requests to use these funds must be submitted in writing and orally at meetings by the person who requests them.
- B. Request of funds
  - a. Ms. Casey requested \$308.41 for 36 pints of clay for use in the Art classroom with all the classes. She explained that every year she works on a clay project with all the classes, but she is now all out of clay. Motion to approve presented by Ms. Mala Cruz. Motion second by Kirsten Cruz and Karen Nash. Motion passed unanimously.

### Principal's Report

- A. School Theme
  - a. Mr. Clark presented the school's theme for this year: "Got Grit" and explained that our students and staff are working on developing their "grit" in light of the new assessments and the new challenges with Florida Standards.
- B. School Anniversary
  - a. Ventura celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. PTO has designed a T-shirt for the occasion and they are available for purchase in the front office for \$10.00.
  - b. Mr. Clark is accepting any and all ideas that may come forward to celebrate this event. No ideas were presented at the moment.
- C. School Grade
  - a. Mr. Clark presented FCAT data results from the last two years to explain to parents how we received a "C" as a school grade. Data was broken down by subject and grade level. Also, data for subgroups such as the lowest quartile and the ELL population was presented.
  - b. Mr. Clark explained the different strategies and programs that are being implemented this year, as well as the things that were implemented in the past two years. Overall, though, while the school grade itself did not increase, the students made gains and Ventura remained as one of the few schools that did not drop their grade this year.

- c. Mr. Clark also explained that schools will not be receiving a grade this year, but that this new, rigorous test will serve to establish the cut scores for next year.
- D. School Improvement Plan
  - a. The school improvement plan will focus on two areas:
    - i. Standards
      - 1. Ensuring that staff and students are working on the requirements of the new Florida Standards.
      - 2. More information on the assessment can be found at [www.FSassessment.org](http://www.FSassessment.org)
    - ii. Professional Learning Communities
      - 1. Teachers and educational support staff will continue using data to drive instruction in the classroom.
- E. Resources and Programs for Parents and Students
  - a. Homework Help
    - i. A link posted on the school's website: insync education
      - 1. Ms. K. Cruz requested the parent code needed to access insync. Mr. Clark and Ms. Pesantez will bring the information next time and make it available to parents in a flyer.
  - b. Parent Portal
    - i. Formerly known as Parent Internet Viewer. Parents can set up their accounts with Ms. Cruz at the front office.
  - c. After School Programs offered this year so far
    - i. Dance Team
    - ii. Orchestra
    - iii. Jump Rope Team
    - iv. Cross-Country Team (in the works)
- F. Recent events
  - a. Mr. Clark talked about the great turn out for K-2 Literacy Night and the first PBS movie night.
  - b. The Dual Language Academy continues to grow in our school. There are no more spaces available in kindergarten, although the demand is there.

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## PTO Report

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- A. Ms. Mala Cruz and Mr. Phillip Lowry introduced themselves. One of PTO's biggest responsibilities is fund-raising. T-shirts are sold in the main office for \$10.00. Another event will be the November Fall Festival. More information will be forthcoming.
- B. Ms. K. Cruz reported that she is waiting for key chains from Wendy's that were ordered. They will be sold for \$2.00. Parents receive a free Frosty for every purchase with the keychain.
- C. Ms. Abraham (parent) suggested that everyday items, such as garbage bags, be sold for fund raising. Ms. Cruz explained that any sales have to be from District approved vendors, but that the process to become an approved vendor is not difficult. Parent offered to look for options and bring them to the committee.
- D. Mr. Lowry announced a Mini-Conference by SAC on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and Cadre meetings at District from 4:30-6pm, once a month for anyone new to SAC or anyone who wants to learn more. It will be at Osceola School of the Arts.
- E. The District Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will meet on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Osceola High School. Mr. Lowry explained the purpose of this council created by Title I and invited all parents to attend.

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## One Good Thing

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Mr. Clark invited everyone to share one good thing. Ms. Nash commented how encouraging it was to see many the amount of parents who attended and asked that they continue attending these meetings and bringing others along.

Mr. Lowry talked about the Dual Language Academy and how happy he is with the excellent education his children are receiving in the program. One of his daughters will be reading (in Spanish) the proclamation of Hispanic Heritage Month at the School Board Meeting this afternoon.

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### Next Meeting

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10/21/2014 3:30 PM, Ventura Elementary

Motion to adjourn was made at 4:30 p.m. and was passed unanimously.