

FL-SAC WORKSHOP

Learey Tech Center, Tampa FL

Workshop Synopsis for June 22, 2000

Attendees:

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| 1. Dwayne Mundy - FL-SAC moderator | 9. Tom Holton | 17. Karen Tate |
| 2. Sam Rosales, Trainer | 10. John Clarke | 18. Linda Green |
| 3. Sharon Danaher, co-presenter | 11. Marvin Pawless | 19. Manual Duran |
| 4. Don Goodall | 12. John L Perry | 20. Cynthia Newman |
| 5. Theresa McCormick | 13. Jim Roney | 21. Renelda Sells |
| 6. Patti Trick | 14. Laura Benson | 22. Tanny St. Mary |
| 7. Carl Durnberg | 15. Vic Rowley | 23. Vernadill Young |
| 8. Mary Holton | 16. Jean Stevens | |

Purpose:

All members of School Advisory Councils were invited to the first statewide SAC workshop. The idea of having a workshop started in the FL-SAC email discussion group. After sharing common problems and innovative solutions for almost a year, we decided to meet face-to-face. The workshop will include training, panel and open discussions. Agenda and [maps](#) were provided to all the public through the Internet and the Commissioner of Education's Email list. To join the FL-SAC email discussion group, either email FL-SAC-subscribe@egroup.com or visit www.egroups.com/group/FL-SAC.

- I. From 8 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. was an informal gathering of early arrivals. Refreshments were provided by the Leary Tech Center, Sharon Danaher, Theresa McCormick and Dwayne Mundy. A sign-in sheet was provided.
- II. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am at the Learey Tech Center, 5410 N 20th St., Tampa, FL 33610-8213 (813-231-1907). Attendees introduced themselves. Thanks were given to Sharon Danher, Hillsborough School Board member, and the administration of Leary Tech Center for providing the outstanding facilities and warm welcome.
- III. School Funding – presented by Sam Rosales, Supervisor of Accountability for Hillsborough School District
 - A. Sam distributed copies of state education budgeting terms and definitions. Each area of education budgeting was explained and discussed. Some of the terms included: operating budget, capital outlay, special revenue, categorical funds, discretionary funds, school budgets, SAC funds, district cost differentials, and program weights.
 - B. Don Goodall and Theresa McCormick moderated a forum on SAC funds, legislative intent and county policies and guidelines. Don posed several questions for discussion.
 - i. Don recommended a book on education reform titled SPINNING WHEELS -THE POLITICS OF URBAN SCHOOL REFORM. The book is published by The Brookings Institution Press and authored by Frederick M. Hess.
 - ii. Theresa distributed a one-page synopsis of state law in several statutes that details SAC and school improvement funding. The statutes are also detailed on [Theresa's] a web page: <http://mccormick.freeservers.com/SAC/SAC-law.htm>, which was developed for SAC members throughout Florida to easily access the different statutes pertaining to SAC. Don & Theresa described the various interpretations of the statutes to different counties. Pinellas Co. policy bypasses SAC vote on SI funds if the principal can tie in the expenditure to the School Improvement Plan. The belief of Pinellas is that the SAC voted on the plan and therefore the expenditure approval is automatic. Leon County guidelines forces SAC's to totally budget all school improvement funds by a date in December with no rollover in funds. Districts across the state may have varying interpretations of the law, there is no check from DOE, and there is an absence of reprisal for not following the state statutes on the dispersing of school improvement funds.
- IV. Best Practices – presented by Sam Rosales, Supervisor of Accountability for Hillsborough School District
 - A. Sam described SAC practices in Hillsborough County, with emphasis on the often-shared problems of SAC: maintaining state mandated SAC membership, attracting & retaining SAC members, & school improvement plans. The Hillsborough SAC projected budget accountability dollars form was distributed. Sam also gave each person a handout on Best Practices 1999-2000. The handout described:
 - i. Electing a school advisory council
 - ii. Developing a plan
 - iii. New school practices
 - iv. Meetings of the School Advisory Council
 - v. Accountability Funds,
 - vi. The amendment process,
 - vii. Waivers and evaluations.

This talk opened up into discussion where other counties best practices were shared.

- B. Patti Trick gave each person copies of policy, bylaws for Broward County District SAC and School Advisory Forums. Patti described how Broward County, parents, and community formed groups that are more inclusive of all parents in SAC. This is done through a "School Advisory Forum," which is open to all the public. The Forum has one member to report to the School Advisory Council, which then sends a representative to the district SAC. The district SAC acts as advisors, mentors, and advocates to both the district and to each school advisory council. This idea of district SACs was of great interest to the class – most school districts do not have this type of leadership.
- C. Carl Durnberg described Dade county policy of EESAC - Educational Excellence School Advisory Council. His role is to train and guide the teachers in Dade School District.

V. Effective Communications by Dwayne Mundy

- A. Dwayne explained the effective use of letter writing for SAC. Letter writing, especially when dealing with school districts, often achieves greater effect than oral communications. Dwayne, using a book on written communications, outlined effective writing and gave a synopsis to the class. A letter should be written on one sheet of paper and should have the following elements:
 - i. Contain an introduction
 - ii. State the concern
 - iii. State the conclusion
 - iv. Have a positive end
 - v. State the reasons why
 - vi. Repeat the conclusion
 - vii. State where to go for more information

VI. State Legislature and SAC

- A. This was a short discussion on state statutes and School Advisory Councils. The statutes governing SAC seem to have not changed for SAC. The class discussed how clear the law seemed to each person present but how some districts have misinterpreted the law to curtail or change SAC participation. With so many districts not represented at this meeting and the statement of Pinellas District on how they were the leaders of many small districts and that the small districts have modeled themselves after Pinellas, there is cause for concern. This re-illustrates the statement earlier that: Districts across the state may have varying interpretations of the law, there is no check from DOE, and there is an absence of reprisal for not following the state statutes on the dispersing of school improvement funds. Don asked for consensus of the group to push for stronger legislative language that will force districts to conform to the intent of the law. This seemed to be agreed by all present since those districts that conform presently to the law would have no impact and those districts that have misinterpreted the law, will be forced to conform to legislative intent. Don and Theresa will be speaking at a meeting of the Pinellas legislative delegation to ask for additional language to the statutes and would like to have the support of this group. The support seemed to be given by those present, although a group has not been formed other than the email list.

VII. Future of the email/newsgroup

- A. A consensus was made to form a group called the Florida Association of School Advisory Councils – FASAC
- B. Dwayne Mundy agreed to be temporary chairman/president
- C. Patti Trick agreed to work on bylaws for the association
- D. Theresa McCormick agreed to write meeting synopsis about this workshop.
- E. All attendees/members were asked to work on a logo for the association. Carl Durnberg would request help from an associate on a logo.
- F. Additional Item: Theresa McCormick brought up the fact, as an afterthought, that the acronym for FASAC does not match the initials for the email newsgroup of FL-SAC. This could be confusing for attracting and name recognition of potential members throughout Florida. There was discussion on this item with agreement on sharing a common name with the newsgroup; although not strong disagreement with having two different names. Changing the name of the newsgroup could lose or cause confusion for membership when the goal of representation from every district throughout Florida. Theresa suggested: FLSAC (Florida association of School Advisory Councils) -keeping the acronym the same as the newsgroup and not utilizing the word "association" in the initials. Because this item was at the conclusion of the workshop the result of this discussion was: confusion over what the actual name or acronym will be. All attendees did agree that the words "Florida, School Advisory Councils and Association" would be used.

VIII. Next Meeting Date & Time: Saturday, November 4, 2000 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Leary Tech Center, Tampa, FL

IX. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa McCormick