

**Beaches Chapel School
School Advisory Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 23, 2025
4PM-5:30PM**

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Welcome, Prayer and Introduction

Pastor James

School Advisory Council

Present:

- Cat Griffith – School Parent
- Charlotte Dolansky – Preschool Director
- Heather Fields – School Parent, Church Member
- Jennifer Bradstreet – School Parent, Church Member
- Carlee Costantino – Lower School Teacher
- Kellie Ruday – Upper School Teacher
- Craig Musselwhite – School Parent
- Kathy McWilliams – Guidance Counselor/Interim Principal
- Ben Harrell – Executive Pastor
- James McDonald- Lead Pastor
- Dr. Terri Stahlman – School Facilitator
- Victoria Schultz- Principal
- Erica Ashmore- Vice Principal
- Cheryl Abbott- BCS Administrative Assistant

Absent:

- Sean Specie – School Parent
- Don Culbreth – Church Elder

Also in attendance:

- Erin Burke-PTO President, Faculty
- Jonathan Vaughn- School Parent

Purpose and Overview of the School Advisory Council (SAC)

Dr. Terri Stahlman

SAC is to serve as an advisory body to the principal regarding school improvement and assist in forming an annual school improvement plan that is based on data analysis including academics and feedback from families and faculty. Decisions and recommendations for a school improvement plan will be based on a consensus. Key points included the need for a unified approach, clear communication, and the importance of parent and faculty feedback. Additionally, further development and fundraising are required through a one time annual ask to assist with funding to assist with the implementation of the school improvement plan. The target audience for this funding would include alumni and corporate sponsorships.

Slate of Officers and Dedication

**Dr. Terri Stahlman
Pastor James**

A quorum was reached with presented volunteers and formalizing SAC officers:

Chair- Caterina Griffith
Vice Chair- Craig Musselwhite
Secretary- Jennifer Bradstreet

Secretary's Report

Jennifer Bradstreet

11.18.24 SAC Meeting minutes were reviewed and a quorum was reached for approval. *Please see attached*

The Council agreed that meeting minutes may be approved via email as long as a quorum is reached.

A SAC webpage will be added into the school webpage.

This page will include:

- Description of SAC
- SAC members listed
- Meeting minutes (with disclaimer that minutes will be posted within 30 days)
- Button that will allow parents to submit an email regarding a concern or express interest in joining SAC in the future.

Updates on Subcommittees

Bylaws presentation

Cat Griffith

The bylaws subcommittee consisted of Dr. Terri Stahlman, Caterina Griffith, and Jennifer Bradstreet. Research and a thorough review of other models was conducted by all parties in forming the bylaws recommendations.

Please see attached for final copy as approved by SAC.

Key Points Discussed:

- Further review of 2 year commitment will be added to the next agenda.
- SAC Members to provide recommendations for replacements as they reach term limit to be approved by church and school leadership.
- Pastor and Principal will be exceptions to 2 year commitment.
- Officers to be elected annually.
- SAC will plan to meet quarterly unless otherwise indicated. Dates will be established once it is reviewed with potential conflicts with the school calendar.
- All SAC members must have a background check on file.

Parent Survey Analysis

**Charlotte Dolansky
Jennifer Bradstreet**

A Beaches Chapel School Parent Survey was distributed in October 2024 via email to all school families. All were given appropriate notice and purpose for completion of the surveys. There are currently 182 families at Beaches Chapel School and 76 entries were submitted. Each question had a response rate ranging from 29% to 40% of all Beaches Chapel families. 28% of entries were from parents that this was their child's first year of attendance at Beaches Chapel School.

A School Advisory Subcommittee was formed to conduct an in depth analysis of the parent survey results to review for trends and patterns and discuss areas to prioritize for action. The subcommittee was led by Beaches Chapel Preschool Director Charlotte Dolansky and was comprised of Vice Principal Erica Ashmore, School Facilitator Dr. Terri Stahlman, and Parent/SAC Member Jennifer Bradstreet. Additional support was provided by Beaches Chapel Executive Pastor Ben Harrell with consolidating survey results and Beaches Chapel School Administrative Assistant Cheryl Abbott with further survey data analytics.

A SWOT (Strengths Weakness Opportunities Threats) analysis was conducted with four common themes being identified:

1. Administrative/Leadership
2. Engagement/School Culture
3. Academics/Curriculum
4. Communication

Concerns/Opportunities were then outlined to assist in the development of an action plan with recommendations on assigned roles and responsibilities to present to the School Advisory Council for further review. The subcommittee recommends that this survey is not in lieu of any additional metrics and annual survey to be taken by the end of the year.

Please see attached for full analysis results.

A concern was raised that this data does not fully represent the school population, but a consensus was reached that this will be a starting point and will not take the place of any annual surveys from parents and students or further metrics from past or future survey results to be provided for further review.

Development Committee

Craig Musselwhite

A subcommittee was formed and an initial meeting was attended by Craig Musselwhite, Sean Specie, and Kellie Runday. Pastor Ben Harrell and Dr. Terri Stahlman were to also join the meeting, but were unable to attend. After the meeting, the subcommittee received further clarification that this funding is dedicated to the school improvement plan as a one time ask.

School Update

**Principal Victoria Schultz
Kathy McWilliams
Cheryl Abbott**

- Open House
 - Morning session had approximately 20 families in attendance. Evening session to be held later today.
- MAPS testing next week
- 1/26/25 Senior Athletics Night
- 1/28/25 NHS and NJHS induction ceremony
- Reenrollment contracts due by 1/31/25
 - 92 submitted so far which was not indicated as atypical as parents often wait until closer to the deadline.
 - Additional time allotted was provided to parents this year for more time on decision making
 -
- 2/3/25 Science and History Fair
- 2/14/25 Themed Dress down day benefitting PTO
- 2025/2026 School Year Calendar Development
 - Principal Schultz developed a survey so that faculty and families can provide feedback. This survey will be sent tomorrow with the request to be completed by 1/31/2025.
- Extended Day is not currently offered, but will be offered next school year. Parents that attended the open house will be made aware of this change via school email as information provided indicated otherwise.
- All communication distributed schoolwide to be reviewed and approved by the Principal before sending out.

Planning for the Year

Cat Griffith

Action Steps:

- Standing Committees to remain.
- Principal to further assess all survey results and analysis to move forward with planning and implementation.
- Development of SAC page- Dr. Terri Stahlman and Jennifer Bradstreet to oversee messaging and further assistance by Beaches Chapel School Administrative Assistants Kellie Hulihan and Cheryl Abbott.
- Further review of BCS SAC member term limits.
- Scheduling a set pattern for quarterly SAC meetings after further review of school calendar

Next SAC Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025 4pm-5:30pm to be held in BC Library.

Beaches Chapel School

October 2024 Parent Survey Results Analysis

Committee Report

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Administrative/Leadership

Strengths

- Teacher/staff-student relationships
- Great faculty and staff (personable, kind, loving etc.)
- Police on campus and increased security measures
- New staff members at BCS (teachers and administration)
- Students having a smooth transition to new grade (for returning and new students)
- School administration/leadership team
- Trust in school and church leadership

Concerns/Opportunities

School Advisory Council

- Develop School Advisory Council
- Clear governance structure between the church and the school

- More unified relationship with Church/School
- Church leadership present on campus and at events
- Expressed concerns of Church leadership weighing in on hiring and firing of faculty and staff

School Operations (Principal)

- High staff turnover
- Stability of the school, staff, and vision
 - Ensure all leadership is unified in faith
 - Hiring and retaining Godly faculty and staff
 - Faculty/Staff culture
- Drop off and pick up traffic flow and safety concerns
 - Safety patrol more engaged and active with assisting at drop off
- Revised PTO format-multiple suggestions for a different format including feedback on a restructured model with more parent involvement
- Redo the volunteer policy including expressed concerns regarding:
 - Fees for not meeting need
 - Mandatory requirement
- Hiring a qualified principal and vice principal
RESOLVED
- Revise Dress code policy (i.e. hair length, sock color)
- Inconsistent disciplinary policy – Emphasized need for a better discipline policy
- Bringing back an extended day program
- Better articulate improvement plans for teachers prior to termination
- Fundraising to help meet goals and ensure our teachers and staff are being paid competitively
- Background check all parents prior to serving (classroom volunteers, field trips)
- Requests to transition to weekly lunch orders from monthly

Engagement/School Culture

Strengths

- Teacher-student relationships + Staff-student relationships
- Spiritual Awareness Week and Baptisms/Salvation or deep faith encounter
- Small, intimate school focused on Christian Values/being Christ-centered and faith forward
- Athletic achievements and individual awards
- Baptisms and spiritual growth
- School events (Fall Festival, Christmas Program, Field Day etc.)
- Grade-specific experiences (Pie Day, Lake Swan, Fun Run, etc.) *Classroom engagement events and opportunities
- Students developing Christ-centered friendships and relationships
- Daily Chapel services and growing in worship/familiarity with worship
- Great faculty and staff (personable, kind, loving etc.)

- Nurturing environment, Students being loved and cared for every day while on campus
- Small class sizes
- The emphasis of the whole child (mental, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual)
- Athletics
- Trust in school and church leadership
- Becoming a Purple Heart School and/or a military-friendly school
- Parental involvement with expressed interest in:
 - volunteering in PTO/PTA
 - helping in child/children's classroom
 - Serving at various BCS events
 - Volunteer on SAC

Concerns/Opportunities

School Advisory Council, School Operations (Principal), and Church

- More unified relationship with Church/School
- Continued/Increased Youth Pastor Mentorship/Engagement, potential need for a School Pastor in addition to Church Pastor
- Increased presence and support from church leadership at athletics and other school functions

School Operations (Principal)

- More parent involvement in classroom activities
- Student/families retention
- Increasing parent engagement opportunities and presence on campus including parent involvement in classroom activities
- Parent social events to promote relationship-building that include school and church (suggestions including worship and prayer night)
- Involve students more in the happenings of the school
- More athletic offering
- Need for more upper school activities and engagement for both parents and school and showcase students (i.e. reinstate talent show or school play/production, missions trip)
- Psychosocial education/development opportunities that could periodically coincide with chapel and sharing this with parents so they can dig deeper at home.
- Optional Parent Directory
- Inclusion of some classic/stereotypical school experiences that add to the overall satisfaction for students and overall level of spirit for the school. Examples: letter jackets, class rings, merchandise designed by students, a more exciting game day experience for sports games, journalism staff (for student newsletter and yearbook), student prayer teams, serving opportunities, a student mission trip or in-town mission work, career day

Academics/Curriculum

Strengths

- Biblical worldview and Christian curriculum
- The emphasis of the whole child (mental, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual)
- Students maintaining all A's (or A's and B's)/good grades
- Band

Concerns/Opportunities

School Operations (Principal)

- Improved curriculum while maintaining a Christ-centered focus
 - Concerns expressed that current curriculum is outdated or lacks rigor
 - More course offerings
- Scripture memorization in Chapel and Bible classes
- More hands on/outside learning and lessons and physical activity being incorporated into lessons
- Consideration for block scheduling to allow for more course offerings including dual enrollment and other electives and potentially recruit more upper school students interested in a hybrid model
- Expressed concerns regarding bulk of homework assignments (some responses also highlighted lower homework assignments within their particular grade as a strength).
- Continue to expand music and arts on all grade levels
 - More events such as talent show, school play/theater to highlight music and arts
- Electives and other specials that offer more rigor and substance
- More field trips across all grade levels (lacking in upper school)
- Public speaking practice all grade levels including Show and Tell or Student of the Week presentations as well as upper school opportunities
- Career research and planning an elective course for upper grades
- Adopting an Accelerated Reader program

School Operations (Principal) and Church

- More opportunities to utilize space on and around our campus- (I.e. utilizing the tennis courts, having gardening as part of science, utilizing the park or beach for more hands on learning)

Communication

Concerns/Opportunities

School Advisory Council in collaboration with School Operations (Principal)

- Marketing for recruitment and community engagement opportunities

School Operations (Principal)

- More parent/teacher feedback, expressed need for regularly scheduled parent teacher conferences
- Better and timely communication on all fronts including information on athletics and tryouts
- Social media
- A portal/database for teacher-parent messaging and interaction (i.e. Google Classroom)
- A text alert system for parents
- A streamlined website or information system where parents can receive information/ assignments from teachers and list all upcoming school events and information
- Better calendar management and more advance notice on events and planning
- More information on upper school to assist with decision making at transitional periods
- Exploring ways to partner with other schools and/or homeschool co-ops to expand our sports, arts, and extracurricular activities.
- Invitations to Special Chapels and information relayed home regarding what is covered in chapel to expand deeper at home so parents can partner with their children's spiritual development

School Operations (Principal) and Church

- Better communication from School and Church leadership