

**Palm Springs Community Middle School: 2023-2024 School Advisory Council (SAC)  
Meeting for Thursday, September 21st 2023 Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Principal: Dr. McDonnough

Chair: Tate Rowan

Secretary: Chante' Martin

Historian/House Liaison: Jasmine Standifer

Translator: Daliza Sanchez

6th Grade Assistant Principal: Lauren Wells

School Police: Officer Moore

Single School School Culture Coordinator: Mecarra Easley

**I. Call to Order and Introduction:**

Our second SAC meeting of the year was called to order on Thursday, September 19th at 4:45 pm Dr. McDonnough motioned to begin and Ms. Black seconded the motion. Our Chairperson Mr. Rowan begins the meeting by explaining what was talked about at the previous SAC including the ESSA initiative, our bylaws along with the approval of dates for the meetings and the SAC positions. Mr.Rowan details where they can be found on the schools website. Mr.Rowan also talks about the YONDR pouch rollout that happened on 9/17/24. He Passed the agenda over to Dr. McDonnough to speak more on the topic

**Adoption of today's agenda**

- Yondr
- 1st Nine Weeks
- No School
- SAC Website
- 2nd Nine Weeks
- Make Up Pictures
- Trusted Adult Program
- Khanamigo
- PSMS Sports
- Hispanic Heritage Month

Mr. Rowan passes the agenda over to Dr. McDonnough

## II. New Business/Principals Report

- **YONDR:** Dr. McDonnough continues by asking if parents have been getting the texts, calls, and emails home regarding the YONDR Pouches. Dr. McDonnough mentioned that students that don't have phones or have left their phones home got a special call home to confirm with their parents their phone status. She even explained that students that don't have a phone received a special stamp that shows they don't need a YONDR pouch at the moment. Dr. McDonnough stated that if a student was to obtain a phone then they will receive a pouch and a new ID. Dr. McDonnough shares with parents that the YONDR Pouch initiative is not being implemented to create new problems, it's being used to help create a better school environment for our students.
  - **YONDR Days:** Dr. McDonnough expresses her excitement of seeing students interact with each other and actually partake in talking with their fellow classmates. One teacher spoke out saying, "Yondr is helping to enhance their classroom experience."
  - **YONDR consequences:** Dr. McDonnough makes it a point to tell parents about the consequences of students being caught with phones. She tells parents that if students are seen with a phone it will be confiscated and held in the office for the parent to pick up. If students are trying to sneak a phone she confidently states that they will be found out eventually. She tells a story of how a student placed a phone case in the YONDR pouch and when she checked it the child laughed and it caused her to be more vigilant. She said only a few students have been caught with phones after hiding them in some creative places, but she says this makes her excited because if they are working this hard to outsmart the system then they can get 4's and 5's on FAST testing.

Dr. McDonnough ends her update on the YONDR by saying that she knows Yondr will benefit our school and students will succumb to the YONDR-way, She passes the Agenda back over to Mr. Rowan.

## III. Chairperson's Report

- ***1st Nine Weeks:*** Mr. Rowan encourages parents to get with their scholars and look over their grades and to help their scholars advocate to their teacher if they aren't satisfied with their current grade since the Nine weeks ends October 11th.
- ***NO school:*** Mr. Rowan reminds parents that there will be no school on October 3rd and October 14th.
- ***SAC Website:*** Mr. Rowan shares with the parents that all things SAC can be found on the school website. All parents need to do is scroll down and everything can be found under the SAC tab. Here parents can find the minutes, presentations, agendas and dates for upcoming meetings.

- **2nd Nine Weeks:** Mr. Rowan reminds parents that as the 1st nine weeks is coming to a close students should be preparing themselves for the second nine weeks of school starting October 15th.
- **Make Up Pictures:** He goes on to tell parents about make up pictures for those scholars that missed it the first time.
- **Trusted Adult Program:** Mr. Rowan goes on to tell parents about a new program headed by Ms. Miller that's being introduced to students called the "Trusted Adult Program," gives students the chance to have an adult on campus that they can go and talk to when they are having a rough day or they just need to talk. Officer Moore chimes in telling parents how good of a program it is and encourages parents to have their scholars to sign up for the program and give it a try because teens and pre-teens in our school need an adult they can talk to instead of getting advice from other teens and pre-teens that may not give the best advice.
- **Khanamigo:** Mr. Rowan explains to parents that our prior online tutoring platform PAPER is no longer being used and we're now using Khanamigo for all tutoring and homework help needs. Students are able to access Khanamigo through Khan Academy and they can ask the AI bubby for help with their homework and for it to help tutor them on a concept they may not understand.
  - **Special Announcement:** Officer Moore chimes in once more to tell parents that they should speak with their scholars about playing around and making threatening statements to Khanamigo, because District officials and even the FBI will get involved to investigate the threat made on the system and even warns if they are making or searching for things that are perceived as a threat on any District device the District can see the searches and intervene, and no one can help save the student after threats have been made.
- **Stingray Sports:** Mr. Rowan talks about Baseball and Softball being in full effect. Both teams have had success at their games but have also been battling the rainy weather as well causing them to cancel a few games or stop the game mid way through.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month:**
  - Starting September 15, 2023, until October 15, 2023
  - We proudly celebrate and embrace students of every Hispanic culture
  - Mrs. Sanchez our ESOL Coordinator put together a list of a bunch of different activities coming up to celebrate
    - September 20 - Fiesta Friday: Fun Lunch
      - Kick-off Hispanic Heritage Month with a festive lunchtime filled with music, laughter, and games!
    - September 25 - Noche de Cine: Movie Night
      - Bring the family for a relaxing evening as we watch a film celebrating Hispanic culture. Don't forget the popcorn! 4:30pm
    - October 4 - Voyage through Hispanic Countries
      - Take a journey with us across various Hispanic countries, exploring the diversity and beauty of these nations throughout the ISA classrooms.

- October 5 - Nuestra Cultura @ The Norton Museum
  - Join us at The Norton Museum for a cultural experience that highlights the art and traditions of Hispanic communities. A day to learn and appreciate the artistic achievements of Hispanic artists!
- October 10 - Multicultural Night!
  - End the month with a vibrant evening where we celebrate not only Hispanic culture but the incredible diversity of our entire school community. Come ready to share, learn, and have fun! 6:00pm
  - We encourage you to participate in these events and take part in this celebration of heritage, culture, and unity. Let's come together to recognize the vibrant contributions of the Hispanic community and honor the beauty of diversity.

## V. Adjournment

- Open Form: Mr. Rowan opens the floor to parents for questions and statements
  - Mrs. Wells tells parents about the upcoming High School Showcase on October 17th in school @ 9:45 in the Gym and the one at the South Florida Fairgrounds on October 22nd.
  - Officer Moore adds another comment about the Trusted Adult Program urging the parents again to get their scholars involved. One parent asks “ How often will the students meet with their Trusted Adult?”
    - Students will meet with their Trusted adult quarterly depending on the Trusted Adult they can come as often as once a week or once a month throughout the quarter. They could sit and talk or even have Lunch with their Trusted adult and they may even go on field trips.
  - Ms. Easley tells parents about the completions of the first PM1 FAST test and encourages them to take a look at their scholars scores to see where they are currently.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m. Ms. Martin motioned to adjourn and it was seconded by Ms. Black.

The entire meeting was translated into Spanish by Mrs. Sanchez

**Next Meeting Date:** October 17th, 2024 in the Media Center @4:45pm

**Submitted by:** Tate Rowan

