

**Sebastian Middle School**  
**SAC Meeting, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**  
**12:15 Media Center**

Member Name (SJCSD Employees)	Present? YES/NO	Member Name (Non-district Employees)	Present? YES/NO
Kirstie Gabaldon (Principal)	Yes	<del>Francis</del> Frances Arflin (Parent)	Yes
Pamela Propst (SAC Chair)	Yes	Lindsay Niewoehner (Parent)	Yes
(SAC Co-Chair)	N/A	Lourdes Ramon (Parent)	Yes (Zoom)
Heather Dempsey (Support Staff/Minute Taker)	Yes	Janie Koike (Parent)	Yes
Linda Thomson (School Board Member)	Yes	Doug Gibson (Parent)	Yes (Zoom)
Eric Smith (Faculty Member)	Yes	Jossy Taylor (Parent)	Yes
Cara Shaw (PTO President/Parent)	Yes	Shelie Joyner (Parent)	Yes
Claudia Dencer (Community Member)	Yes	Allison Baker (Community Member <del>(Parent)</del> )	Yes
Quorum Reached: YES			

Commented [PP1]: Community Member

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Minutes
3. Principal's update
4. What is SAC?
5. Budget Review
6. Closing
7. Next Meeting – November 5th

## **Minutes**

SAC Meeting was called to order at 12:17PM on 10/1/25. We will have a STEM Advisory Board this year as SMS is us for STEM Certification Renewal.

Ms. Taylor motioned to approve minutes from the Joint PTO/SAC Meeting held last month. Ms. Gabaldon seconded the motion and all approved.

### **Principal's Update**

Ms. Gabaldon reported that the first round of progress monitoring testing (PM 1) has been completed and 98% of our students were able to be tested, which is fantastic. This first round of testing serves as an indicator of reading levels and is a great place to start discussing learning opportunities with students. It also helps build confidence among students. The question was asked, "Why only 98%?" and Ms. Gabaldon gave absenteeism and students enrolling after the testing dates as possible reasons.

Ms. Gabaldon reported that our local Elk's Lodge donated \$2,000 to SMS. \$1,000 will be used to repair band instruments so students don't have to pay to rent instruments. \$1,000 will go to pay for our new monthly Media Center STEM Challenges in which students will problem solve in a fun manner and be tasked with completing several projects (building basketball hoops, designing and creating usable baskets, and coding and racing Ozobots, to name a few). Punch cards will be awarded to allow students' admittance to an author's visit here at SMS. We will focus on creating/testing/improving processes and developing a common language throughout our entire school. Focusing on developing and honing critical thinking skills will allow students to transfer learned skills to upcoming projects and apply thinking processes to things they haven't learned yet, and also across subjects (by asking how the author is using language, what is the correct formula, for example). Because we have bridged reading gaps we can now go deeper vs. wider, pushing students to think about learning how to learn, with STEM challenges and things done in classrooms.

We would love to have our students present to the representatives from Elk's Lodge their completed challenges and create an authentic relationship with those involved. It was also suggested that we should invite representatives from the Elk's Lodge to our band performances. Mr. Smith from the local Elk's Lodge is a mutual acquaintance of Ms. Gabaldon's.

Feedback from the joint PTO/SAC Meeting last month will be posted in Ms. Gabaldon's weekly newsletter this Friday.

### **What is SAC?**

Ms. Propst shared the District PowerPoint regarding SAC and its role in school. SAC focuses on increasing student achievement in a safe learning environment. Over 51% of members must not be employed by school

and/or district to hold a meeting. Sunshine Laws dictate rules regarding meetings and notifications thereof. Minutes must be recorded and open to the public.

### Budget Review

Beginning total was \$8,459.75 but money was spent for summer conferences.

Current Budget Total: \$5,801.41.

We get grants and funding through PTO. Ms. Gabaldon gets money from different sources. SAC money comes through the state through our district and is a set amount. There are no projected funding requests at this time. The majority of funding is related to student achievement improvement goals.

### Closing

Ms. Shaw motioned to close meeting, Ms. Dencer seconded and all approved.

### Next Meeting

Next SAC Meeting is scheduled for 11/5/25 at 12:15 in the Black Box (a bigger room off the Media Center).

Minutes Approved 11/5/2025