

Whispering Pines School Advisory Forum

5/6/26-Whispering Pines SAF Meeting Minutes

Attendance- Jonathan Cooper, Karina Hoogesteyn, Erin Walsh, Jan Chinnners, Chandra Lee Wilson, Mitchell Screen, Jonathan Ammann, Hunter Chinnners, Kevin Campbell, Erica Alexander, David Garcia, Neil Cain

A meeting of the Whispering Pines School Advisory Forum was held in the Media Center on May 6, 2026, called to order at 10:45 am by Jan Chinnners.

Old Business

The board reviewed the minutes from April 1, 2026. Erin Walsh made a motion to approve. Mitchell Screen second motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Introductions
2. SAF Update from District Meeting held April 15, 2026

A. Nomination Committee Chair Linda Ferrara announced the vacant SAAC positions for the 2026-2027 school year and looking for interested parties to fill. Voting will be at the next district SAAC meeting, May 20, 2026.

B. Presentation on School Counseling by Dr. Cooper. Brace adviser's purpose and position was explained. They are a liaison/guide between high school students and their next chapter after graduation. They counsel all 9-12th graders in mainstream high schools, combination schools, and center schools. Brace advisers help students pursuing their goals of college/technical school enrollment with guidance on requirements, best suited institutions, applications, financial aid/scholarships, an college/technical school testing. They help those who may be undecided about a career path and determine if a GAP year would be suitable. For those wishing to go straight into the work force, brace advisers can help through community/corporate connections with job internships. Students wishing to serve their country can also fine guidance and enlistment requirements through their brace adviser. Each school has a brace adviser but is also assisted by school guidance counselors and other qualified school personnel at each school to be able to service all the students. In addition to school qualified staff, each school has brace cadets who are peers and act as a liaison between brace adviser and students.

The online program Xello works in conjunction with brace advisers. This is a college and career tool that each student and family has access to through Canvas. The program can keep track of service hours, help with resume writing, has a match maker quiz to help steer students into a path that they would excel at, and can also help with financial aid and scholarships. There is a link within the program that lists each scholarship available and a hyperlink to the scholarship that provides the details and requirements.

C) Open discussions items: Meta glasses cannot be worn during school hours and testing with the exceptions of ESE and ESOL students, but it must be incorporated into their IEP.

Redefining Schools is holding workshops to address the 10,000 projected loss of enrollment for the upcoming school year and looking forward to the 2027-2028 school year. This also has led to a 10% decrease in the school budget. Staffing positions are being re-evaluated and some consolidated or eliminated.

The proposed referendum has had its wording updated and will be on the November voting ballot. It asks to extend the taxpayers' 1- mil operating tax through the 2030 year with 75% of the funds going to staffing, 18% going to school safety programs, and 7% towards mental health and wellness.

School transportation is looking at revising student pickup and drop-offs to maximize the budget and shortage of drivers. They are looking at implementing "smart stops" for students with school choice and magnet programs. They would use the home school (high school as hours are earlier) as a student's designated pick up and drop off point. Parents would be required to transport students from home to the designated school stop and home again.

New business: Open SAF positions for the 2026-2027 school year.

Open Agenda

1. Mr. Cain- the school board meeting discussed the district meeting yesterday spoke about the referendum so the numbers may have changed.
2. Ms. Chinner- Thanks everyone for allowing me to be a part of these meetings, and she has learned so much from taking on this role!

Meeting Adjournment:

Jan Chinner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 am. Seconded by Jonathan Cooper. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Erin M Walsh, M.S., CCC-SLP

Approval Date: _____