

PAC Meeting – September 28, 2016

Attendees: Liz Bagnato, LisaLaurino, Betsy Bacot-Aigner, Dana Thompson, Gayle Shimoun, Karen Wexler, Elaine Edge, Kristina Folkart, Alyson McCauley, Chris Corrigan, Kathy Krell, Dorit Kransdorf, Amy Jones, Christine Ziegler, Irene McDonnell, Youngyoung Shen, Shannon Yu

Incident on Monday, September 26:

Spirit week has been happening for years. Seniors will do their own thing & the rest of the school doesn't participate. Over the years, Spirit Week turned into theme days. Senior officers had a meeting with Frank Howlett earlier this school year. They discussed how to keep it appropriate. Mr. Howlett learned that Tuesday would be "Trailer Tuesday" and he felt that that was inappropriate and advised the students to change the theme. On Monday, September 26th, after third period, in the atrium, there was a group of Senior boys gathering, and Mr. Howlett warned them that they should not disrupt the flow of students or any of the classes. He warned them that they would be suspended if there were any disruptions. Mr. Howlett was in the atrium and told students to go to class. The students briefly dispersed but as the bell rang, the students came back into the atrium. The Assistant Principals and Mr. Howlett told them to go to class and gave them fair warning. The two groups charged at each other. There were no weapons involved. There is a video camera in the atrium. The APs also took videos. One student was injured and needed stitches.

Following the incident, Mr. Howlett asked the AP's and Georgianna Paril, Attendance Officer, to review the videos and provide him with the names of students that were positively identified. Based on the video review, 18 students were suspended for gross insubordination and extreme disruption. They are suspended for four days, from Tuesday until the next Wednesday. The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Goss v. Lopez* said that for any suspensions 10 days or less: The student must be allowed due process, the student is not allowed to know witnesses, no lawyer is allowed to be present during the "hearing". The suspension does not go on the student's transcript. This goes on their discipline record on HAC. On the Common App., it often asks about suspensions. The students are responsible for making up their own work. Home instruction would begin after a student is suspended for 5 days or more. Home instruction is only provided for classes that are required for graduation.

Breathalyzers at school events:

Random breathalyzing took place at the first home football game. There was amazing support from the parents. Most students went home and told their parents. VRDT - drug testing has been ramped up. Breathalyzers will be used at the Homecoming dance, and at the Basketball and Hockey games. A record is kept of every child who is tested. Mr. Howlett is working on having a letter sent home to the parents of the children tested. All 32 kids who were tested were negative. If anyone is suspected of

being under the influence, the policy regarding suspicion based testing applies. Consequently, those children are to Morristown Memorial Hospital for further testing. Teachers are in the stands during the game.

A parent rented a party bus for the seniors for the Westfield game. It is suspected that many of the students were under the influence. We have little authority over another school's students during the games, and RHS cannot breathalyze another school's students. We do not allow our students and students from other schools to bring in backpacks for safety reasons.

Naviance:

Mrs. Shadis - logon issues have been resolved. The problem was on Naviance's end.

Parking - Soup to Nuts:

Students have been getting ticketed. If a student doesn't have the tag on his or her mirror they will get a ticket. Mr. Howlett has no influence over what gets ticketed. It is handled by the police department. RHS does not provide the police department with a list of who should be in each spot. If a student has an issue (forgot their tag) they can come to the main office and let them know that they don't have a tag for the car. The tickets handed out were: 1. Not displaying tag 2. Not being in the correct spot. The student can go to court and explain that they just didn't have the tag and the second ticket will be dismissed.

All of the students who got their paperwork in on time to request a parking spot, got spots in the upper parking lot. All others are at Varsity Field. Those with spots at Varsity Field were not charged \$50 for the permit. Juniors may park on Collyer and at Varsity - only in spots not allocated for the Seniors.

FTGOTO:

New BOE Policy #3232: Guidance Counselors cannot tutor students in district for a fee. Teachers can tutor students only if the student is not in their class.

If a student is having an issue with something that was said in a class, the parent or student can contact someone who the student is most familiar with. It could be the guidance counselor, Assistant Principal, Principal, Subject Supervisor.

Fair grading policy: The issue has been brought up primarily in regards to Honors Chemistry. The administration is looking at "Standard-based grading". The issue also seems to be frequently brought up in AP English because it is perceived that the grading is more subjective.