

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2018

Attendees: Mr. Krause, Christine Ziegler, Heather Olivo, Linda Maher, Doreen Beim, Elaine DiDario, Aditi Tandon, Mr. Thorpe, Alicia Martine, Achint Kaur, Katie Chan, Alyson McCauley, Maju Dontamsetti, Chau Shearer

Volunteer Efforts (Mr. Krause)

- Its very helpful to have these efforts. The last one to paint the cafeteria was a success and good turnout. There are other things that need to be done (for example, chairs need to be put together in the art department).
- Could another session be scheduled, perhaps at half days or over breaks when kids want to get service hours? Maybe over holiday break?
- Need about 10 volunteers (kids and parents). Could be a fix it day.

Staff Bathrooms/Facilities

- Suggestion was made to 'spruce' up the bathrooms to include decorating, extra toiletries and etc. Elaine volunteered to do this for the year. Mr. Thorpe indicated that while it is nice, some of the bathrooms don't even work or there isn't toilet paper nor soap.
- In addition, there are rooms (730) where the AC doesn't work.
- Elaine will work with BOE and facilities to get awareness on this.
- There is only one maintenance person that works all the school. The process is a ticket needs to be sent and then they work on it.

Drug Testing

- Reviewed the process for this in the school. The parents must sign a permission online and then there are random names selected.
- In WAMS this was a mandated permission or else their access to online was shutdown so the incoming WAMS families should be covered.
- Tried to get this linked to VRDT but unable to.
- At games, there is a random voluntary testing. Typically do 10-14 kids at a game. If it's refused, they are unable to get into the game. There has not been a problem with this yet.

Lockdown Policy Situation

- There was a lockdown drill in the middle of an Honors Chemistry test. One class was not allowed to complete their test; however, other classes were. There needs to be standardization on policy for this. Mr. Krause indicated that this should be brought up to the attention of the Curriculum supervisor. Parent will do that.

Senior Internship Program

- Mr Brum who teaches Biology would like to introduce a Senior Internship Program. There was a successful program run in Westport CT that this would be similar to. It would be open to any senior and will be selected via lottery (Google Random Generator) for those wishing to participate.
- It is a 4 week unpaid program where the student needs to work a minimum of 35 hours in lieu of school. This will take place after the AP exams are complete and the teaching content is less critical. It would run May 20th-June 19th.
- The program is asking for \$4K (includes website and other budget items).
- This could be for any industry including trades. Kids can fund themselves, or they can be funded. The program is looking for anyone that may want to sponsor a program at their company.
- Suggestion was made that the program put together a one page fact sheet or standards document that could be taken to potential companies when asking for this type of program.

Parent Discussion Topics

- Would the school consider AP Chinese to be added to the curriculum. Ask the Language Supervisor Dr. Fox.
- Could block scheduling be considered? A question for BOE.
- Addition of a volunteer coordinator for the volunteer days discussed.
- Booster club sells cards for two people but they have to come together. This is an issue when people are arriving at different times. This needs to be reviewed with the Booster club to get additional cards.
- It is confusing when different teachers use Aspen versus the Homework portal. Kids have to go to both to get assignments. This is scheduled to be eventually merged together in the future.
- The current Friday folder is not easy to access, especially from phones. It is currently this way due to ADA regulations. This is getting switched to Aspen so it should be more user-friendly in the future.

Pep Rally

- First pep rally of the year scheduled and will be the last period of the day. It is scheduled to take place on the fields. All fall sports will go on to the field. There will be a mascot.

Future Fundraising

- There are many problems with the current PA system. Some speakers don't work, others have low or garbled volume that messages can't be understood. If there is fundraising done on behalf of this, Mr. Krause will need to initiate the request to Mr. Makarian, who can then approve it for a separate group (perhaps BRASS as part of Safety initiatives?) to fundraise. Any funds over \$1000 has to be approved by BOE first.