

Site Council Notes April 15, 2015

I. Opening Activities Reports

In attendance: Pat Avery, Brad Jungert, Brian Naghski, Mary Taylor, Niels Pasternak, Lu Bridges, Elsa Andrew, Gus Peterson, Tana Bailey, Mike Stasack, Sarah Prater, Stephanie Cannon, Tracey Windom, Eli Cyntrynbaum, Asher Tubman, Danielle Glenzel, Tia Holliday, Juli McGlinsky, Bobbie Willis

Absent: Elton Villanueva, Lauren Montgomery, Cheryl Henderson

A. Welcome and visitor introductions and comments: None

B. Principal's Report: We are working on staffing some unfilled positions. We have a full time English position open and .25 FTE position. We also have a .58 part time French and Math positions open (Note: as of 4/19 the full-time English and .17 Math have been filled.). Stephanie participated in the Direct Donation Drive phone 'call-a-thon' that was coordinated by parent Joy Marshall. This involved calling parents and reminding them about the Direct Donation Drive that raises funds for our school. This event could be repeated in the future and volunteering is encouraged.

C. Student Government Report: (To be edited by Eli Cyntrynbaum, Student Government Site Council Rep) Our student government is happy to report that they have a new school wide composting program up and running! Compost is being collected from the school consistently by Food Not Waste, a program run through the 4J school district. This program was initiated by students with help from our custodial and cafeteria staff. The student council has coordinated a special guest lecture that is open to all students and faculty. Dr. Travis Littman, a respected trauma surgeon and author, is volunteering his time to talk with us about strategies for avoiding traumatic injuries and experiences in your life, in the Little Theatre inside SEHS during lunch on April 22nd. The student council also hosted another blood drive recently and it was a success.

D. Parent Council: The United Way will be acknowledging extraordinary volunteer Maggie Carlson at an upcoming luncheon, which will take place next week. Two main themes were discussed in a recent meeting. One was a conversation around AP teachers not being able to get through an equivalent amount of instructional material in two trimester terms as compared to the amount of material they were able to cover in the 7X2 scheduling format. Parent Council reps are in conversation at the district level with Randy Bernstein. There was also a conversation about having a teacher representative on the Parent Council and this recommendation has been made to the Site Council.

II. New and Continuing Items

E. Program presentation/9th Grade advisory: Sara, Tia, and Jericho discussed a proposal that would start a pilot program to help ninth grade students who need additional support to be successful in their transition to high school. This would change the structure of our current freshmen advisory program. Detailed information about this program can be obtained by contacting Sara Prater, Tia Holiday, or Jericho Schwab.

Staff questions after reviewing the proposal: There was a staff question about who would be assigned to this group. There was also a question about if all the students would be scheduled in the same classes together. Alexa Lachman will be the main advisory teacher in this program. It was

also stated that students selected for this program would not all be in the same classes because students will be scheduled based on their individual needs, but there will be a cohort of teachers who share these students in their core classes throughout the day in order to create opportunities for deeper collaboration.

There was a question about if the other advisory class that is staffed by a classified staff member would be retained. It was answered that this class would not be the primary responsibility of classified staff next year but that Academics Unlimited would continue to be supervised by classified staff, without loss of classified positions.

There was a question if students in AVID would also take Advisory classes next year. The answer was that they would not do this in the same term and it was explained that our AVID program is changing to allow students take two out of three trimesters of AVID in their freshmen and senior years. There was a question about if a sophomore cohort would be developed as a part of this plan. The response was that the pilot program being discussed would be explicitly targeting freshmen next year but that further development of this plan after implementation is possible.

A staff member asked if students in Special Education programs could also be in AVID and it was answered that they could. It was also stated that students in AVID have to meet external criteria and fit the demographics of the program's target population. A staff member stated that he thought the target population of sixty students for the new freshman program was too high. He recommended four groups of eight students to start.

G. SIP Work: For the March Site Council meeting, Stephanie had presented a color-coded School Improvement Plan showing progress towards the SIP goal strategies. This was emailed to Site Council members prior to today's meeting. Members of the Site Council broke into groups to look at the report and to work as a team to generate ideas for activities that could help to accomplish the prioritized strategies listed for accomplishing our SIP goals. At the end of the work time, each group presented their ideas to the council. Each group was asked to submit their work to Stephanie so that it can be made available to all council members.

Ideas from Groups:

Reading and Writing Essential Skills Goal: This group talked about having academic departments collaborate to establish and implement a specific performance task associated with a CCSS literacy standard. To have some fun in communicating the literacy standard, the school could then make posters of each staff member promoting a literacy standard, similar to the celebrity reading posters in the school library, and display the posters around the school. **Attendance Goal:** This group talked about working collaboratively to develop a faculty wide PD related to strategies for improving Teacher-Student Relationship Quality.

Math Goal: This group talked about training 9th grade advisory teachers in College Preparatory Math (CPM). It was mentioned that our entire SPED department already received this training last summer and that this a completed strategy outlined in our School Improvement Plan (SIP). The Math team received thunderous applause for this accomplishment. This group also mentioned that they think increased emphasis on implementing and using "Work Keys" assessments in our school would help our students.

Graduation Rate Goal: This group discussed tracking credits earned in 9th and 10th grade and identifying students who earn less than five credits per year as "at risk". The group also discussed

creating and applying new intervention strategies to help at risk students next year and collecting data related to the effectiveness of these interventions. Our school's data team rep Tia mentioned that she is looking at establishing an RTI team next year at our school and that they could take on the bulk of the work related to implementing this idea.