

SEHS Site Council Meeting September 17, 2009, 3:30 - 5:30

In attendance: Stephanie Cannon, Randy Bernstein, Rebecca Kovach, Mark Rosen, Tami Walkup, Julie Stewart, Virginia Seefeld, Ladia Filip, Juli McGlinsky, Gregory Dunkin, Josh Hamill, Tim Bjornstad, Pete Hamm, Melinda Shull, Grace Whitmore, Phebe Udo

Convenor: Kathy Saranpa

Recorder: Anna Grace

I. OPENING ACTIVITIES

There were no visitors today. Minutes were approved.

Randy reviewed information on how site council is run. It covered group agreements; how we should treat each other, communicate and provided some guidelines for decision making by consensus. There is some new language regarding the convenor and recorder. Convenor must send out an agenda one week in advance to the meeting. Recorder has two days to send out minutes, and members have two days to respond with changes. Minutes should be sent out to staff will get out within a week of the meeting. We discussed student votes, and clarified that students have two votes on site council, despite the fact that we have three students. Members serve for three years.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Shared Ownership/leadership

We broke into small groups to discuss the goals we set at our retreat and create plans to being moving towards them. The groups, members and plans of action follow:

DEVELOP OUTREACH STRATEGIES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES: Kathy Saranpa, Tami Walkup, Gregory Dunkin

Plan of action:

Set meeting w/ Carmen Urbina to discuss strategy

Explore hiring a work-study student to serve as bilingual staff.

Run report on non-English speaking parents

CONTINUE TO IMPROVE DECOR OF SCHOOL TO BE MORE WELCOMING TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS: Grace Whitmore, Josh Hamill, Melinda Shull

Plan of action:

Because Student gov't is doing some similar work, check with them to avoid overlap

Continue w/ more mural ideas, opening decor up to more mediums

Look into updating the quotes around the school

Develop rotating display involving departments

Take a school fieldtrip to map out blank spaces

EXPANSION OF AVID/WICR STRATEGIES THAT PROMOTE SUCCESS AND TEACH COLLEGE READINESS SKILLS

Anna Grace, Randy Bernstein, Mark Rosen

Plan of Action:

Because AVID can help all students w/ its strategies, it should be expanded school wide

Get more teachers to attend AVID workshops

Financial support through Grant writing, community networking and parental support

Gain support from parents by introducing a topic to the parent education series through AVID strategies such as Socratic seminar

Get a parent on the AVID site team (Mark?)

DEVELOP PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS TO HAVE SPECIAL LUNCHESES WITH STUDENTS: Virginia Seefeld, Julie Stewart, Rebecca Kovach

Plan of Action:

Discuss other ways for students to connect with teachers, besides lunches

Game Fridays; have teachers host students for games in their classes

Work w/ student gov't on these ideas

Build a calendar where kids have more access to see teachers outside of the classroom

Get teachers to go to events besides sporting events

Look into ways of identifying kids who may need these connections

EXPLORE AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS (E.G. ON-LINE, ALT. ED.) TO PROVIDE CREDIT RECOVERY AND THAT CATER TO STUDENTS AT-RISK OF LEAVING SEHS EARLY / SET UP AFTER-SCHOOL STUDY HALL FOR INELIGIBLE ATHLETES AND OTHERS WHO ARE REFERRED FOR EXTRA HELP: Phebe Udo, Pete Hamm, Juli McGlinsky

Plan of action:

Afterschool study hall

Explore: Is afterschool enough to support struggling athletes? How do you communicate with coaches about student progress?

Phebe is going to talk with coaches and students about communication

Pete is going to talk to Dave Hancock

Juli is going to look into referrals for students to the afterschool homework help

Credit Recovery

How can we look at the continuity of learning, like if a student takes geometry on line will they be prepared to take the next section here at school?

Check out Sheldon's program

IMPROVE FRESHMAN ADVISORY PROGRAM/CURRICULUM / REGULAR FOLLOW-UP (AT LEAST QUARTERLY) WITH SUMMER BRIDGE STUDENTS AND INVITEES

Tim Bjornstad, Ladia Filip

The program has a lot of potential, but without a developed and articulated program, how do you keep kids plugged in.

Discussed ways of keeping curriculum vibrant

Wrapping up the discussion, Randy noted that we should progress on these goals before the next meeting.

Prioritize EEF Grant Proposals

We had three Grants to look over. We can recommend two of them. Anna Grace and John Wayland were asking for \$2000 for College visit for the AVID kids. Tibor Bessko was asking for \$2000 for the ASAP (AIDS and Substance abuse program) Mary Ditson was asking for \$1,800 (this not an exact figure) for keyboarding skills.

Council discusses priority ranking of three grants.
Priority is as follows:

1. ASAP (10 votes)
2. AVID

Discussion about whether Mary Ditson should submit for the \$500.00 grant as opposed to the \$2000.00 grant for her technology proposal.

If another \$500.00 proposal comes in before the deadline, Randy wants permission to submit it without running it by Site Council. Council agreed.

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MSAN: Council agrees to allow the new MSAN class to count for English credit.

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Professional Development Plan: Council passes plan.

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Enrollment Discussion: We were projected for 1520 and as a result, were staffed for 1520. We either have 1567. Though our classes are large, teachers are doing an excellent job of providing excellent instruction.

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Student Government: They are working to demonstrate that Student Government is a hard-working and viable group by doing the following:

1. Community service projects such as “Beautify South” project
 2. Publications
 3. Random acts of kindness
 4. Spirit Week
 5. Fundraising.
 6. Getting ready for Fall Fest.
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Parent Council: They have not met yet. They have a new Scrip coordinator. They hope to make up some of the financial shortfall through fundraising.

They are also trying to restructure council meetings and want to be an organization that focuses on parent concerns and observations. They are discussing how to reduce stress for students.

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Set Agenda: Kathy has it taken care of.

Stephanie asked parents and students to stay after the meeting to give feedback regarding parking.