

MINUTES

12/14/15 SITE COUNCIL MEETING

In attendance: Ray Aponte, Joan Pearson, Arthur French, Steve Richter, Theresa Bulander, Lauren Lewis, Sharon Rush, Karen Holly, and Ethan Dean.

Welcome: Introduction of new member.
Arthur French and Steve Richter will co-chair future meetings.

By-Laws: We're not currently following what's set in the by-laws exactly - i.e. what members make up the site council.

The district needs are updated/current version by the end of the year.

Karen Holly will contact members that are currently listed but haven't been showing up recently to see if they are still interested in being on the council.

It was suggested Ray personally invite a more diverse group of individuals to join the council.

We reviewed each page of the current by-laws and discussed revisions and changes we would like to make (see attached draft). Council members are to review this draft and add/delete/suggest further edits so we can have a final version to submit to the district by Friday, December 18th.

Equity: Ethan Dean, our Equity & Diversity Coordinator, joined us to give an update on different trainings, groups, outings that have taken place and are being planned this school year.

Mr. Aponte pointed out that communication from the school was a goal in helping stay in contact with all families and he's happy with the steps we've taken to make that happen this year (Twitter, Facebook, website).

It is Ethan's second year. During the summer they formed an official equity team and met during the summer to get started. It used to be part of ILT but is now a separate group.

They continue to work on the differences in academics and graduation rates between groups. Has brought in outside groups to assist and the 7th period day seems to be helping (too soon to see results). It is apparent that some differences are directly tied to attendance issues.

Goal this year - increase conversation with staff school-wide. Offering professional development for staff.

Ethan sees his role as a clearing house to sustain the conversation consistently. He is focusing on students, staff, and parents/families/community.

He has student leaders and groups formed focusing on equity. Wants to make students feel like they are equal partners in this goal.

The council talked about looking at data. What is it we specifically want to look at? Should we be focusing on 9th graders since we have the time to make a difference? The staff has looked at some of the data during professional development. We haven't reviewed 1st quarter data yet but we will. We're still defining as a team how to take this on. Equity is such a big frame - so many little pieces.

Who are the 437 9th graders?

Is what we do preventative or reactive?

What systems are in place to work with failing students/missing core credits?

Can we get 9th graders broken down by demographics?

Is there data on students that rallied after 9th grade and graduated - is there a

commonality with these students? What is it?

Is there a correlation between failing/NC/Incomplete grades and those students that don't participate in extra curricular activities?

Should we require that? (Search Institute data)

Can we get class enrollment by race in each class? Especially AP, CIS classes.

Can we get breakdowns by program?

Would getting staff mentors for each kid help?

Can base-line data be presented to Site Council?

Parent involvement - bring these issues to PUSH.

We should take deliberate steps to try to promote diversity in the Site Council membership.

Future Agenda Items:

Discussion around department chairs and counselors - what system do they have in place to ensure students missing credits in the 4 core subjects are being focused on?

Who are the 437 9th graders we want to try to focus on?

Discussion around extra curricular activities and how we should require/promote participation.

AP/CIS/PSEO data on all 4 grades.

What are preventative steps and which are reactive?

