

MINUTES

10/27/14 SITE COUNCIL MEETING

In attendance: Arthur French, Sharon Rush, Colleen Aho, Cynthia Simmons, Teto Wilson, Joan Pearson, Jocelyn Cruz-Mestizo, Brandon Castro, Karen Holly, Sharon White, Ray Aponte, Sam Bonaime, Erick Garcia, and Mayra Leal.

Welcome (Ray Aponte): The first quarter is almost over. Students could be a little stressed this time of year, along with staff.

Ms. Wolfe is no longer with us – resigned. Hopefully we have a replacement already in place starting today – Joy Blewett. She has the background we’re looking for.

We have hired a .6 FTE chemistry teacher. She will run 1 or 2 classes on her and Ray is meeting with the science team to come up with the most effective way to use her services.

We’re in the process of hiring a Spanish bi-lingual aide. The main focus is to support families. We’re hoping to ask the district for Somali support next.

A robo-call from Sharon went home today. There’s a house on 21st that has had several disturbances in the past few weeks. We’re asking students to use exit 19 just to avoid that area.

Sadie’s dance was a success. Numbers are down but it was a great time.

Ray’s original goal was to build/manage relationships with students and staff. Now his focus is on professional development goals for this year. We have approximately 26 learning communities and would like to see all working and building around literacy. Tier II words will be a part of college prep exams in 2016 and we want our students prepared.

Student Council: They have a different theme every month. November is hunger in the Cities. They will be doing a walk at MOA on Thanksgiving and going to Feed My Starving Children.

Working on building mentorships with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

113 units of blood were given at the blood drive (goal was 120 but we did beat Southwest). January is the next blood drive.

They currently have 66 members. Their first official meeting will be November 5th.

Five members will be attending the Leadership Forum in Alexandria, MN.

The citywide student council group is working on changing high school requirements.

They would like to see a “Suggestion” box to improve student engagement. They should work with Ms. Schneider who can bring it to administration.

The new application process made it harder to get in. They had fewer candidates but are happy with the commitment and quality of the students that have applied.

Gael Ellis with the district site council group is reviewing policy #1692. An overview was passed around on an iPad.

PR – they are writing proposals for the Olympics, Sweetheart Dance, and carnation sales.

Fundraising efforts were discussed. They need fundraisers to increase their budget. Mr. Aponte asked them to come up with some ideas and we will go from there.

PUSH: They did not have an October meeting because of the busy month.

The November meeting is in process. They are working on putting a new board in place.

More survey feedback was shared.

Equity: What is currently being done? What are the plans?

No right or wrong answer – goal is to create a space to discuss equity.

Ethan Dean is our new equity coordinator. He’s been gathering different groups together and getting a solid voice. Ray met with 46 students today from those various groups.

The challenge for that group is how to make every student feel valued at South. Wants those conversations at the student level.

Ethan has a tough job. He’s working on defining the job itself. He’s open minded.

Currently wants to keep equity work at the student level. Maybe somewhere down the line PUSH can be brought in somehow.

South High will have a large representation at the upcoming Equity Forum in Minneapolis.

South makes a conscious effort to balance classes equitably.

The Humanities Center: Colleen presented information about the Humanities Center. See attached information.

Future Agenda Items: Parking lot
By-laws (see attached)