

MINUTES
9/28/15 SITE COUNCIL MEETING

In attendance: Ray Aponte, Nadine Stodolka, Steve Richter, Joan Pearson, Mayra Leal, Sharon Rush, Cynthia Simmons, Sharon White, Say Yang, Colleen Aho, Ayub Mohamud, and Karen Holly.

Welcome: Introduction of new members.

Approve/Amend Agenda: added planning, review goals, training, and FIP.

Sharon White was elected as time keeper. Keep time to five minutes per agenda item.

Training Review and planning:

We should become a more organized group.

Possibility of training around decision making.

We should choose 2 or 3 major priorities to focus on this school year.

Is there a new version of the Site Council “rules” the district started to create last year?

The district didn’t meet as planned so the same language from last year is still what’s out there.

We should set our own “rules”/time as to how we function.

We could start with our by-laws to set our planning/structure (see attached).

We agreed to set a longer meeting in November (3:30 until 5:00 pm) and have a facilitator to review and renew our by-laws.

Members should review the by-laws and be prepared to discuss changes/updates they want to see at November’s meeting. We may have to have further conversations if we find it will take more work than next month’s lengthened meeting. May have to set up another longer time period to get it done.

Other items that were left at the end of last year that Ray thinks we've improved on: equity in our course selections and access to AP testing.

We are behind on reviewing the FIP (Family Improvement Plan) for this year. Sharon White will e-mail the current FIP to members for review during the next Site Council meeting.

SIP:

Had Site Council members sign the 2015/2016 SIP.

The SIP is based on MCA results. We had approximately 1,000 students opt out of testing so the information they are basing our progress on is skewed. They should compare our data using ACT testing information and other markers.

Should we encourage more students to opt out of testing? Would it lessen the impact on the numbers?

Members would like South to be known for what we're good at, not the SIP information. South is about college preparedness, social justice and diversity.

Ray will work on writing an addendum to the SIP and we can post it with the SIP on our website explaining the data. We are not concerned with growth/numbers because it's calculated on the premise of No Child Left Behind. We want to express the need to focus less on MCA testing and more on passing ACT testing.

7 period day: Offers more electives/choices for students.

Still working on balancing class sizes.

Student members stated having study hall was helpful. Students may end up with some classes in subject areas they were not planning on continuing with, but it's working out.

We've opened campus to EVERYONE during lunch periods (equity). Some students couldn't go out last year based on grades. That has ended.

Teachers think it's great that students have that opportunity to get out and get some fresh air daily.

New staff update: We have more approximately 50 new staff members this year.

Increase due to 7 period day and Newcomer program.

Have new Public Relations Coordinator.

Check out the updated website.

The communication home is great.

We now have Twitter (13 followers!). People can see the tweets on our website.

Number 1 goal is better communication with families, students, community.

We're "selling South" and all we have to offer.

Student Council Update: They made a profit this year with Homecoming.

The entire event was great. They held the dance in the gym instead of the commons, had free snacks, balloons, a pep rally where the band played. Was great.

Spirit week had more participation. Mr. Aponte likes to see it going more from "class" spirit to "school" spirit.

They have their first blood drive on October 9th. Their goal is 85 donations. Student council members are attending a workshop at Children's Hospital on 9/29/15 to learn more about blood drives.

They had a lot of applicants to join student council but many drop off because of the heavy work load. They have about 10 regular members - mostly juniors and seniors.

NHS is holding a costume dance in place of Sadie's this year. They're trying to get away from the couples model and trying to make something people can come individually or in groups and have a great time. That's being held October 22nd.

Mr. Aponte mentioned there was an **ACT test** at Dunwoody for Juniors and Seniors on October 23rd. [CORRECTION: TEST DATE IS OCT. 24] We'll have Lisa, our public relations person, put the information out on the website.

They are sponsoring the winter Olympics in early December. In the past it's been a 3 hour event in the morning. Student council is working on a proposal to make it a full day event - 3 hours in AM, lunch break, and 3 hours in PM. They would like to make it so all students can come and enjoy the event. Maybe sell tickets and make it a fundraiser. Again, a proposal needs to be made because they will need teacher approval. Mr. Aponte getting teachers on board would be the first step. Students could visit the various venues (gym, football stadium, Y) and rotate through the different events.

Another fundraising idea they're looking at is dodge ball in the dark. Our gym is a perfect set up for it. Ray would like to see a You Tube video of it.

PUSH: Had their first meeting September 14th with about 30 parents in attendance.

Ray came to welcome them to the 2015/2016 school year and our new athletic director (Brett McNeal) and Project Success spoke to the group.

The talked about future planning.

Some items discussed were after school math tutoring by parents or community members, scholarship opportunities, more science activities, and senior all night party.

Future Agenda Items:

By-law review/update (extended meeting time)

Review Site Council goals

Approve addendum letter to go with the SIP

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, November 30th, at 3:30 pm.