

SITE COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM 5-18-15

In attendance: Ray Aponte, Karen Holly, Steve Richter, Joan Pearson, Arthur French, Sharon Rush, Colleen Aho, Sharon White, Lauren Lewis, and Cynthia Simmons.

Welcome-Approve/Amend Agenda: Should adopt use of Robert's Rules of Order in the future. Members stated they liked the informal setting better.

Principal's Report: Someone from the district will be coming next Tuesday and Wednesday to help work on our new 7-period schedule. We are incorporating 4 lunch periods to make lunchtime more relaxed and give students options to get outside and move and enjoy the fresh air.

Counselors are currently entering the 7th class students chose during a survey that was sent out once we determined we were going to a 7-period day. If they didn't do the survey, they should see their counselor or students will be placed in open classes. Next year's bell schedule should be 8:20 am until 3:05 pm. Ray wants a basic schedule finalized by next week so staff can see it.

AP testing was a wonderful experience. Ray didn't expect that many students to take the various tests.

Tuesday night is a district budget meeting at Sullivan. Ray will be there to support South and our budget allocations for next year. Colleen Aho will be attending as well. We had an increase in budget due to the new ELL program next year and the change to a 7-period day.

Ray tried to reach David Bernard regarding training for Site Council members. He will continue to pursue that and make sure something is planned. At the end of the meeting members agreed 8:00 until 11:00 am on August 10th would be a good date and time for training. Ray will make sure information is sent to Site Council members as soon as it's arranged.

It was suggested that we list the Site Council's goals at the bottom of the monthly agenda.

PUSH: was an intimate gathering with a good vibe. Ray gave an update. Recognized parents for their service. Got parents to volunteer for the staff breakfast and senior party (which is always a struggle). Sharon did a great job recognizing individuals.

They talked about restructuring PUSH. Would like to work more closely with the counselors and be more involved in the family events (i.e. registration nights). They would also like to be

at the first meeting about testing next year. Need to communicate to families more clearly the ins and outs of testing and opting out.

Future Agenda Items: Defined where Site Council wants to go –

SIP – great avenue to help develop SIP.

Basic 101 Site Council training. There is information on the MPS website that lists more substantial duties for Site Council.

Need a process to represent and communicate to parents what Site Council is doing.

Goal = get more information on South High's website.

Need more representation from different groups who should be represented on the Site Council.

Need to get more people involved. We used to have representatives from the South High Foundation, Corcoran Neighborhood, the Park Board. We need to reach out to those people again.

Need more structure and more people.

Need to look at new language put forth by the district.

Stay focused on equity. Should have a committee report the equity work being done in the building at our meetings. There is a group at South going to training 6/22 and 6/23/15.

The new Public Relations Coordinator position may be able to help with some of this – communication.

Further discussed AP testing. Did incentives cause more participation? Can the Site Council get a breakdown on equity for AP testing (College Board may have this information)?

Would like more information regarding teacher evaluations. We have about 10 staff members that do our teacher evaluations. Information regarding specific teachers could not be shared with Site Council but we could be educated on how the system works.

A list of all our programs and their descriptions would be helpful for the Site Council members.

Trying to encourage students to participate in after school activities/club as a normal part of their high school experience was discussed. We could have students rank the top 10 after school opportunities that interest them. It would also help with fulfilling their community service obligations. It needs to become more systematic to get students involved.

Would like to look at school climate through the students' eyes (a survey conducted by South High instead of the district). There is current district survey information regarding school

climate but think students would be more inclined to participate and be honest if the survey was conducted by the school itself (Survey Monkey?).

Final thoughts: Arthur wants to revisit the announcements process for next year. Doesn't feel communication is reaching students with the system we adopted this year. Would like to go back to reading them over the PA during the day or some other option.

Steve has concerns about lack of rigor in our Open program.

Ray's goal for next year is to get rid of bottled water and reduce the waste of those plastic bottles.