

Site Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

In attendance: Kathy Kaczor, Larry Trevette, Dan Hickey, Karen Szarek, Kevin McLaughlin, Dennis McCracken, Suzette DiTonno, Shannon Pettis.

The proposed program of studies for the 2016-2017 school year is available for review. Mr. Hickey was concerned about the change in prerequisites for some of his classes from "C or better" to "passing grade." He felt students scoring below a C would be unsuccessful in the follow up classes and would take classroom space away from other students.

We discussed parent teacher conferences beginning with a pie chart of statistics supplied by Beth Kitsos regarding participation by grade of families on conference night. We wanted to see how our statistics fared vs other schools in the district and other high schools in other districts. We discussed what the intent of conferences is for both sides or whether we were simply doing conferences "because that's what we've always done." Were conferences still relevant with information being available through the parent portal and via email. Would conferences be more appropriate around progress report time instead of after first report cards? Would an open house be better than conferences? How much conversation can one really have in 5 minutes. Parents expressed frustration with the 5 minute limit, long wait times and crowded spaces. Would the school be able to handle higher conference attendance percentages?

Regarding the parent portal. Parents need training on how to best use the portal. Would a FAQ about the portal and about various other school related questions be helpful to parents. Can we survey parents to get the top questions to be featured in this FAQ? Is there an app for School Brains for parents to get alerts like their was for Aspen? Can the school(s) hold a parent portal training night for parents? Will standardized test scores be part of the parent portal someday? Is the language barrier a problem for parents in getting progress information for their students?

The School Improvement Plan is due in central office in January. We need to read over the copies of the current plan sent via email and submit any ideas we have for changes/updates/additions and consider the discussions from this meeting in regards to how it relates to the SIP.

While it is a district dream to have a 1-1 device program it isn't financially possible without a benefactor.

Attendance and dropout problems do hamper the high school. There is a group of people who do reach out to families and try to keep students in school. Currently students aren't legally allowed to drop out until they are 18 but any student who is absent 10 consecutive days is considered a dropout and is no longer included on their class attendance rolls/gradebook. Some students have learned to work the system where they come in for one day every 8 in order to not be officially a dropout but they aren't participating in their education. There are 29 students in the night school program but they aren't usually there for truancy related issues but more for social/emotional problems attending the regular day program.

Next Meeting: January 5th @ 3pm