

Site Council Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2016

In Attendance: Kathy Kaczor, Beth Kitsos, Shannon Pettis, Sarah Emilio, Sue Spreadborough, Dan Faircloth, Larry Trevette, Karen Szarak, Nancy Koorapaty.

Previous minutes accepted unanimously.

Upcoming Events Discussed:

Classical Entrance Exam 11/15/16 @8:30am. Registration online of approx 180 students with results due in January. Students who make the exam grade cutoff then submit transcripts and letters of recommendation.

No School for both Election Day and Veteran's Day.

Term One Report Cards 11/10/16 @end of day. Allows students to not spend the day harassing staff regarding grades before the long weekend.

Senior play - Arsenic and Old Lace. 11/16 11/18 11/19

Conferences 11/17. Time allotted not really enough for in depth conversation. Looking into having ischool open for parents to register to use the online portal (Schoolbrains) if they haven't already. Beth Kitsos said she would discuss with Tim DiFalco having training available for parents both in person and through an online video.

Schoolbrains also has a phone app for parents and students to use.

Dodgeball Tournament 11/22/16 Spirit event and Fundraiser for the senior class.

Athletics 11/28/16 Winter Season Opens. Fall Season saw a lot of great sports played by the Hillies. Tom O'Brien is looking into an overarching booster organization. While the school has lowered user fees there are a lot of "hidden user fees" through fundraising and purchasing of items for the athletes.

8th Grade Tours. This may get postponed until spring and then only students on the fence about going to HHS would be invited to tour (about 125-185 students.) This would help limit the bus expense and give the interested students the best opportunity to see the school. Discussed the options of having weekend tours for families instead.

12/1/16 Nomination Deadline *Athlete Hall of Fame* for athletes and coaches from before 2006.

Academy Night very well attended by approximately 500 people.

Freshman Orientation drew a crowd of between 600-650 people.

510 Freshmen in this year's class - up from 470 previously.

MCAS Results are in and an overview of the results was handed out to Site Council. Still struggling with subgroups. Need Score of 220 for diploma. Only the student's first score counts towards the school's overall results. Students given many opportunities to retake the test. Geometry questions are where there is an issue in the Math MCAS. Those questions also require a high amount of literacy. Questions are also from material not covered until after the students take the test based on the MA Frameworks. Before students are considered a Sophomore they need to have passed both Algebra 1 and ELA 1 to give students the best chance to pass their Sophomore MCAS the first time sitting for it.

Saturday School is being offered to help students make up unexcused absences. The students are required to visit the teacher whose class they missed and get the work they need to do. They then sign up for and attend Saturday School. Doors close right 8:30 - late students have to come back another Saturday.

Students who do not pass the MCAS get a Certificate of Attainment instead of a diploma. They can retake the MCAS and still get a diploma. Students can also appeal their results if they attended 95% of the classes and their cohort passed the MCAS. Students can also take the Hi-Set or attend Greenfield Academy for diploma equivalents.

Next Meeting: December 6th 3:00-4:00