

SSC Meeting Minutes

Wallenberg Traditional High School

I. Call to Order

II. Attendance

A. ABSENT:

1. STAFF: Judy Mahnke
2. PARENTS: none
3. OTHER STAFF: none
4. STUDENTS: none

B. PRESENT:

1. STAFF: Cheryl Foster, Ken Free, Sylvia Fitch
2. OTHER STAFF: Jen Terry
3. PARENTS: Annie Ogata, Pavle Levi, Sharon Abayari
4. STUDENTS: Doljinsuren (Anuka) Zandanshatar, Khaia Ritter, Susan Wong
5. ALTERNATIVES/NON-VOTING ATTENDEES: Zaia Vera, Staci Kavanaugh, Yulissa Sanchez

C. DISCUSSION OF OFFICIAL VOTING MEMBERS:

1. Ms Abrons, Ms Gauby stepped down from the SSC.
2. Jen Terry official "Other" due to Ms Langdon stepping down from the SSC.

III. Principal's Update

- A. Freshman #s
- B. Great Back to School Assembly
- C. CELDT Testing for EL students has already begun thanks to Ms. Vera.
- D. Hired Family Liaison, Yulisa Sanchez who speaks Spanish. We are very happy to have her!
- E. We also have an attendance clerk who also speaks Cantonese.
- F. Graduation rate is 100% because the two students who didn't pass the CASHEE get a reprieve due to the District possible change of rules for the upcoming school years. The Board voted to allow 2015 graduates to get in on that as well.

G. Vera - Back to School Night Update

1. Parents get to go through their students schedule, 10 min at a time, get an overview from their teachers about each course
2. The event will be held on campus October 1st, from 5:30-7:30.

H. New Staff

1. Ms Kezirian - Social Studies Department
2. Ms Prensky-Pomeranz - English Department
3. Mr Lupoli - Science Dept
4. Mr Merrill - Math Department
5. Ms Battee - English Department
6. Mr Talbot - Health/College Career
7. Mr Hollander - Librarian, full-time, Library open during lunch
8. Dara Garcia - Wellness
9. Mr Makhijani - Assistant Principal, different from the person we thought had been hired but who had decided not to accept the position, so the Asst. Superintendent appointed Mr Makijani
10. Ms Erigero - School Secretary
11. Mr Chung - Special Education
12. Mr Moore - PACT Counselor
13. Mr Liwang - U-ASPIRE
14. Teacher Turnover
 - a) Ms Ogata mentions the high turnover rate, and as a parent notices it is hard on continuity of student-teacher relationships, and its more impactful at a small school. How do students get recommendations for college?
 - b) Ms Ritter mentions that they are great teachers even if they only stay, regrets Ms Hobson has left.
 - c) Ms Wong agrees it is a downside to having such a high turnover rate.
 - d) Ms Vera notes we have two new Harvard graduates and hopes they will stay. We don't have control over when teachers leave, and we need to work on a positive school environment to keep them.
 - e) Ms Foster notes that 25 years ago teachers imagined working in one spot, but this has changed in this day in age in high-tech. Teachers tend to leave the profession in their 3rd year, all schools face this, backs up Ms Vera's statement of needing to create a positive school environment to keep new teachers.

- f) Mr Levi mentions that it has nothing to do with school, Ms Kavanaugh mentions that all of her friends have left due to having children, spouse getting a job elsewhere, etc. We've lost teachers to wanted to make more money in high-tech and engineering.
- g) Ms Ogata gets the feeling that we have higher level of turnover, Ms Foster responded she thinks we are in the middle in the District. We need to look into what we can do to keep them, like being able to grow professionally.
- h) Ms Ogata requests finding out ways to contact teachers who left, Ms Kavanaugh says she has passed along recommendation letter requests.

IV. School Budget

- A. Ms Foster: Our budget has been cut by about \$11,000 due to enrollment numbers being ~7 students down.
 - 1. We don't have a huge budget this year, we have about a \$60,000 budget as certain funds must be allocated to EL and SpEd students.
 - 2. The budget cuts were taken from supplies, we don't need to change other categories.
 - 3. Student activities is in a separate ASB budget.
 - a) Ms Foster says ASB hasn't really raised any money the past few years, which is separate from SSC.
 - b) Ms Wong asked "does ASB know they must fundraise?" Ms Foster "Yes."
 - 4. Enrollment is a bit lower, we are getting new students everyday but our budget will not be adjusted.
 - 5. We have about 650 students, but if we had 670, we would have had a full-time attendance clerk.
- B. Motion to approve Budget by Mr Free, Seconded by Ms Ogata
 - 1. Edits to discuss: none
 - 2. affirmative (11)
 - 3. negative (0)
 - 4. abstentions (0)

V. Upcoming Meetings & WASC Visit

A. Five Year Trend - AP Test Scores

- 1. Fewer AP students in 2015 than 2014, but more have a 3+ than in previous three years.

2. 2011 had a LOT of students taking AP tests, a LOT with 3+, Mr Free suggests AP Chemistry impacts ability of students to do well on other tests as it is very challenging and requires a lot of time to study for.
3. We have AP Calculus class offered this year, 2014 had higher take/score. We are lower than global/national averages.
4. AP Chemistry, we now offer two classes of AP Chem. Mr Bhatt's first year teaching last year, he is supporting this year's students by having last year's students tutor this year's students.
5. Chinese Language/Culture, excellent scores! Many are native speakers, doing better than global averages. We offer the AP class every other year due to enrollment.
6. AP Computer Science, we have a partnership with Microsoft, TEALS, because we don't have teachers credentialed to teach CS, so we have tech assistants come in from tech companies to support the classroom teachers. Mr Young did a great job 2013, Mr Pinsky in his first year of teaching taught AP last year, and Intro to CS this year, we will be alternating every other year like with other AP classes.
7. AP English Lit, scores have gone down since 2011, less than the state and national scores. Above 3 is passing.
8. AP Environmental Science, we started offering it in 2012. Not many students took the exams, Ms Foster stated many didn't feel prepared.
9. We reviewed one offs including AP Japanese, Macroeconomics, Physics, Psychology, none of which we offer.
10. AP Spanish Language & Culture, AP class was the first time we had AP Spanish, but intend to offer it every other year.
11. AP Statistics
12. AP Studio Art, in 2015 we tested higher than the state and nation.
13. AP US History, has gone down a bit about 2011, but on par with state and national. 2013 we had two classes, had students that year who went on to MIT.
14. **By demographics**
 - a) Mexican students - 6 took AP Exams
 - b) Other Latino - 9 students
 - c) Asian - 118 students
 - d) Black students, 4 students
 - e) White/ME, 4 students
 - f) What are we doing to recruit students of color in AP classes?
 - (1) Ms Ritter stated she was placed in AP class without being asked, appreciated her teacher's support but needed to drop out.

- (2) Ms Fitch asks is this a trend of African-American students enrolling? Many of her APES students felt overwhelmed and dropped out because there were fewer peers.
- (3) Ms Kavanaugh suggests getting students who have taken/passed exams and have them help recruit from BSU.
- (4) Ms Ritter spoke on the stigma of being the only black student on swim team, Ms Foster agrees, and asks who should be the one speaking out and encouraging students? Ms Ritter suggests multi-ethnic assembly. Ms Doljonusra suggests having target students who have passed and succeeded to step up and speak out. Ms Ogata suggests finding the normal, not super star types, to speak out. Ms Fitch agrees, mentions Victoria who struggled but still did well. Speaks on how intimidating it can be to AA students.
- (5) Mr Levi asks who encourages students across the board to take AP? How do we do this school wide to promote AP classes as making your life better? Ms Foster suggests a student ad campaign to encourage different students who took in past, 30-sec video, show them to targeted student body.
- (6) Ms Ritter suggests that a lot of this has to do with perceptions with what they want to do in their life.
- (7) Mr Levi want to know how we get out the message. Mr Free mentions he recruits AA and Latino students directly, asks MWC teachers who is doing well, then encourage them to take APUSH, and has a really strong Latino class this year, highest grade right now is a Latino male, last year, two AA females.
- (8) Ms Foster speaks as to what counselors push, college credit, etc. Ms Wong says she heard through word-of-mouth and that passing AP tests means college credit, and saving money in college was great. Ms Doljinsura did not know until she heard it in AP class.
- (9) Ms Foster asked what if we said every student had to take at least one AP class, and how would we have to change our school to support this?
- (10) Ms Fitch talked about making sure they had previous courses that would prep them for classes. She had APES students who needed Chem but had only taken Physics, and struggled with the math.
- (11) Ms Kav suggests a flow chart to show 9th grade level how to prepare for future AP classes.
- (12) Mr Levi asks what incentives do we have for teachers to teach AP classes?

B. Vote on Remaining Data to Review

1. Caasp report, suspension rates, social-emotional culture climate report, EWA, ACT scores?
2. Students, parents want to see ACT
 - a) Our students did not break state average, though we had a lot more students take it this year than previous.
 - b) Ms Foster attributes it to competing against suburban schools, and urban schools across the board tend to score lower than average.
 - c) Of those that took it, only 20% reach college readiness in all four. This mirrors AP scores as well. 60% and 54% for English Composition and College Algebra readiness.
 - d) Mr Levi mentions how low 20% seems, shocked at 37% statewide.
 - e) Ms Kavanaugh asks about us vs district, Ms Vera mentions she has asked but ACT does not break the data down that way.
 - f) Ms Wong brings us back to reading/writing and how college is very heavy on paper writing and how will we support her peers to be ready for college? Ms Vera speaks on "every teacher is an English teacher," Ms Foster speaks on what language needed to access each subject.

C. WASC Visit March 7th - 9th

1. We want to have Community Meeting on October 22nd to start WASC, the Community Meeting will re-examine ESLRs, areas of focus, gallery walk of staff work, and get to the data we haven't managed to get to yet tonight.

VI. New Business

- A. Ms Ogata would like the PTSA to publish SSC minutes on the school website.
- B. Ms Foster said that Ms Vera will post them on school website, and a small board at school. The Secretary will email the SSC to receive a quorum vote before posting.
- C. Planning the rest of our SSC Dates
 1. 2015: Oct 22nd, Nov 19th, Dec 17th (tentative)
 2. 2016: Jan 21st, Feb 18th, Mar 17th, Apr 21st, May 19th

VII. Adjournment