Local School Council

February 4, 2016 Minutes

Board Members Present:

Eleanor Brookins, Curtis Douglass, Millie Dunn, Mike Everly, Chip Fife, Lisa Jern, Joleen Neel

Board Members Not Present: Stephen Lawrence

Guests/Non-Members:

Dawnitra Quigley and Frankie Williams (PTSA Co-Presidents), Leslee Evans (CCC), Ms. Bush (CCC), Carolyn Dingman, Lisa Glazman

Called to Order

4:16 p.m. by Ms. Dunn, Chairperson

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes from January 7, 2016 (Lisa Jern)

Motion by Ms. Dunn to approve minutes; second by Mr. Fife; approved unanimously.

2. LSGT/GO Team Update (Mike Everly)

The Warrior Weekly includes information about the upcoming GoTeam elections.

Regarding the upcoming elections, a question was raised as to when "community members" have to express interest, as the online sign up suggested that the deadline is the same as school GO Team candidates. We're concerned because we'd like to have an educational specialist and/or someone from the Hispanic community on the GO Team.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Jern will confirm the timing of community member participation in elections. Mr. Fife will also follow up with Mr. Douglass regarding other means of disseminating information regarding the elections.

3. Study Hall (Carolyn Dingman/Curtis Douglass)

As of now, APS schools are not able to offer study hall because there are no "standards" for it. APS has also said "no" to a shorter day and to incorporating study hall into advisement.

TOK second semester would only be a partial solution, as it isn't a requirement and is only for IB. Even though it is available to some IB students, we can't give the 10 pt. boost in their AP grade if it's not a constructive period (i.e., if it's just study hall), so that isn't a partial solution either.

Mr. Douglass explained that the resistance at the district level is because kids have to be in class in order for the schools to get FTE money.

Ms. Brookins asked whether a remediation/enrichment day would be a solution?

The State says you need 24 classes to graduate, but APS says you have to have a full schedule unless you're in an alternative program (e.g., West End Academy, other at risk programs). Our block schedule also makes it more difficult to have flexibility, and we're mandated by APS to be a 4 x 8 block schedule.

4. Milestones EOC Data Analysis Committee Charter (Mike Everly)

We have had a very positive response from the faculty to the survey. The administrative version of the survey is currently in draft form. We will postpone surveying parents/students until we have had an opportunity to review next steps in connection with the existing surveys.

The council discussed generally what the best way would be to get input from the students.

5. CCC Task Force Update (Leslee Evans)

See Exhibit A.

Additional notes: Regarding Senior Seminars (#4), we hope to have college kids back to provide input. As to the part-time CCC counselor (#5), the idea would be to go through the Foundation for a stipend. It can't be a parent because of access to student records. Possibility of 20 hrs./wk. Regarding the post-high school "plan" (#6), the aspect we're looking at relates to the "career" aspect of the plan.

Ms. Neel requested that, when we move to GO Teams, we should continue to have a College & Career subcommittee. General agreement from all.

Ms. Evans asked whether there should be a GO Team subcommittee to address issues relating to Advisement.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Edgenuity Concerns (Lisa Glazman/Curtiss Douglass)

Ms. Glazman raised a concern about a math teacher using Edgenuity to assign 45-60 minutes of home work each night. The Edgenuity grade counts towards students' semester grades. Ms. Glazman questioned whether this was a proper use of Edgenuity and whether other teachers were using it in this way.

Mr. Douglass responded that Edgenuity is intended for unit recovery (see Exh. B), not to be class homework, and that the problems with implementation of Edgenuity are district-wide.

Note: On Unit Recovery Letter (Exh. B), the front page is standard, the back is unique to NAHS.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Douglass will follow up regarding use of Edgenuity by teachers.

7. Principal Report (Curtis Douglass)

7.1 HR Information

There is a staffing meeting tomorrow. We aren't losing staff for next year. We are projected to have an additional 158 students. We earned a 5th counselor. We also earned a 5th assistant principal (we previously had to "buy" the 5th; now, it's budgeted).

Next month, Mr. Douglass will have more specifics regarding departments.

7.2 Discipline

We've added more teachers patrolling the hallways, the concern being that it's a big school. We will add four non-instructional paraprofessionals to walk halls next year (not in uniform).

The LSC discussed generally the private APS police as School Resource Officers vs. APD.

7.3 Student Attendance

We're dropping below our threshold (i.e., not achieving six absences or less). This impacts CCRPI, but we're still one of the top schools in the district. As semester goes on, our numbers are impacted in part by students leaving to visit colleges.

7.4 Before and After School Loitering

Loitering has gotten better (i.e., less of it) since the letter warning parents about loitering went home.

7.5 Additional Information

Mr. Douglass went on an accreditation visit to Hancock County. The visit was instructive in anticipation of NAHS SACS visit in March.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:15 PM