

Ashland High School
Site Council Meeting
December 16, 2021

4:17 p.m. called to order

Present:

K. St. Coeur
E. Lachapelle
M. Sullivan
J. Shiels
J. Twomey
A. Egan
M. Gallant (recording secretary)
C. Beaton
N. Singh
L. Mihnoss
M. Kotsifakis
M. Ibnat
M. Pecze
L. Zayac
H. Kaufman
C. Marchetti
R. Werkema

- I. Nominations for officers
 - a. Vice chair - Carrie Marchetti
 - b. Secretary - Marybeth Gallant
- II. Budget
 - A. Level funded for next year
 - B. Assessment of new smartscreens
 - 1. Some disadvantages such as losing whiteboards space
 - 2. Hard to see from certain locations in the room
 - 3. Advantages emerging as teachers become more comfortable with technology
 - C. Positions have been requested as school population changes - rising EL numbers especially of non-English speakers
 - 1. Overall enrollment hasn't really changed, just composition of student- body
 - 2. Level-funding makes it difficult
 - 3. Qualified teachers not always available for roles we need.
 - 4. Covid funding has all been earmarked.
 - 5. Are there still technology-related needs?

- a. Large libraries of DVDs that can no longer be played.
- b. Many of these not available on streaming, laptops no longer have DVD players.
- c. Students say Chromebooks don't always work, especially the ones assigned to seniors.
- d. Grant will allow us to work with JED Foundation - two-year program that allows schools to take a look at where they are with social-emotional services (through an audit).
- e. The JED Foundation presented with a local organization called Kyle Cares.
- f. Typical price is \$25K but various other grant money has been provided, and the JED Foundation never turns away a school
- g. Help develop a plan about what to develop going forward.
- h. Medway HS has also been working with them (were a pilot school with them)

III. School Improvement Plan

- A. NEASC - first update due in February 2022.
- B. The main goal we are not meeting is Vision of the Graduate – how can we get this out to our students.
- C. “It’s Your Time, Clockers” – visibility is not there.
- D. Resilience is the one word that students have really been living.
- E. Pre-COVID there was talk about a poster contest for the Vision of the Graduate, with only one submission, and it was right before we closed.
- F. Success getting alumni back to present during X-Blocks, they could talk about the skills they use from HS
- G. Are these VOG attributes things you can measure?
 - 1. Find a way for students to show progress they made
 - 2. Include VOG in next mailing to Site Council members
 - 3. Ms. Lachapelle reads that the attributes are.
 - 4. Maybe seniors can help teach freshmen about it?
 - 5. Something for kids to evaluate themselves from year to year
 - 6. Are portfolios still used here?
 - a. Mainly only for art
 - b. Maybe find a way for portfolios to align with VOG?
 - c. Counseling seminar might be a good place to integrate this
 - d. For many schools, a Senior Project presentation includes the components/skills that VOG includes.
 - e. Maybe find a way to tie volunteer requirement into Senior Project and VOG?
 - f. The Counseling form students fill out to request a letter of recommendation from a teacher is a good template for this kind of reflection.
 - g. PBIS activity could incorporate some of the VOG education/reflection
 - h. Maybe have students target two per year, CLOCKERS (8 letters), and add two per year.

- i. Empathy lessons for freshmen – students felt the concepts were very abstract, but once they heard teacher examples they understood better

IV. General School Updates

- A. All-school toiletries drive for Thanksgiving spearheaded by STUCO
- B. NHS recently had two fundraisers, during the vaccine clinic and Polar Express concert.
- C. Survey during X-Block for exam schedule - use X-Block time to get help from teachers to get ready for midterm exams, because it has been two years since we have had midterm exams. Only juniors and seniors have experienced midterm exams.
- D. Class meetings last week with focus on respect.
- E. Mask removal delayed till January, with surprisingly few complaints about this change.
- F. New head custodian; new .4 math teacher who is taking on some Integrated Math classes that were over 30, allows classes to be split and be smaller.
- G. Parent question about how to know if you've paid class dues? Advisers/class treasurers have a spreadsheet.
- H. April 8 - Senior Prom; Juniors are May 14. Senior Week will have 3 days of activities.
- I. There will still be busing of grads to other schools after Class Day.
- J. Probably no car parade. Second year not as well attended as first year.
- K. Graduation returning indoors, most likely. Cost of outdoors very high.
- L. Good response to X - Block sessions with AHS grads and college speakers.

Next meeting: January 20, 2022

Additional proposed dates:

February 17, 2022

March 17, 2022 — will be changed

April 28, 2022

Meeting adjourned 5:31 p.m.

Vision of The Graduate:

It's Your Time:

Civic responsibility

Lifelong learning

Ownership of actions

Critical and creative thinking

Kindness and empathy

Effective communication and time management

Resilience

Staying positive

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