

West Hillsborough School
Site Council Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER - 3:20pm

Introductions/ Attendance:

Vicki Volden (VV)

Theo Kosteroglou (TK)

Christy MacLean-Chu (CM)

Teresa Pai (TP)

Suma Raju (SR)

Megan Medvitz (MM)

Richard Miller (RM)

Sherry Gavin (SG)

Jamie Evare (JE)

Chris Flores (CF)

Jamie Adams (JA)

Leslie Huie (LH)

Sarah Adams (SA)

Don Geddis – member of the public (DG)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 14, 2014

LH moves to approve minutes

MM seconds

Approved

3. CURRENT BUSINESS & OPEN FORUM

a. CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: Kristi Shreve updating. <http://wssc.hcsd.info/>

b. CALENDAR FOR SITE COUNCIL MEETINGS

JA confirmed dates of site council meetings:

09/17/14, 10/15/14, 11/12/14, 12/10/14, 01/14/15, 02/18/15, 03/18/15, 04/29/15

c. SNACKS

Sign up sheet going around.

d. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

JA nominate SA as chair. MM seconds. CM & LH switch off as secretary.

e. SINGLE PLAN FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Usually at West, the plan is revisited and updated every year. By law we can choose to only review and update every 3 years. This year LCAP (Local Control & Accountability Plan – state level) changed the format for the Single Plan. The narrative is the same but the goals should align for district and LCAP. JA distributed 2 handouts: template of LCAP goals and our goals from last year Single Plan. LEA (HCSD goal), School goal (West School), and LCAP (state) – all should align. For example: in past we didn't have a writing goal but maybe this year. We currently have an all student goal (at district level and could easily translate to school level). JA suggests that we give her until the next Site Council meeting to transpose last year's Single Plan to the LCAP format then we can go through and discuss point by point.

Open questions to the floor:

- 1) TP suggested that maybe we take HCSD goal for addressing “all learners” and for West we tweak to focus on high achievers not necessarily special needs, emotional levels, GATE (truly gifted).
- 2) RM: “Does Hillsborough have a disproportionate number of gifted?” JA: no, there is a small percentage that is truly gifted but a bigger amount of high achievers. We no longer have STAR testing so we have a year without data since test was not given last year. In decades past the criteria to determine giftedness was an IQ test. Our current criteria uses STAR testing and teacher recommendation.
- 3) TK: “Do we always have to have 5 goals?” JA: no, you can have 1 or 10; no limit.
- 4) SR: “Do the goals have to be achieved by a certain time?” JA: Document has to be done by Dec. JA proposes that we have a draft by next meeting then we can tear it apart and draft by Nov then put it together for board approval by Jan approval.
- 5) TK: “How do you define a writing goal?” JA: that's probably why we never made it an official goal. Hard to determine concrete examples of “good” or “achievable”.
- 6) SA: “Is this an open book or is this Single Plan done?” JA: It can be open. JA wants to insert what we have in new format then tease it apart. The document next month will be a basic summary for new members.
- 7) JA: Overview of Site Council is unique by design. It takes parents, teachers, staff to make sure the school has culture and vision we want for the school. Then hopefully we have some goals and look at data. That's the hope.
- 8) TK: “How are actions taken?” JA: Beyond the writing down of the goal, if something resonates that JA writes it down and gets a consensus from staff to see if its something to implement. For DG's year the take away was the Homework Grid (the amount of time per grade that is appropriate so parents can see).
- 9) TK: “What other forums are like this?” JA: west open forum is like this but waiting to see how it forms. If WPG meetings are enough to disseminate info, maybe the open forum can be focused on something else.

- 10) TP: "Maybe we combine the west forum & site council?" JA: Its always dependent on scheduling. The meetings cannot happen during the day (because teachers are teaching) and if it happens after school how many parents can make it? RM: at north, on Dads' Day, Anthony Ranaii came for middle of Dad's day so all the dads who came could get time with Anthony.
- 11) JE: "Site council has official members but anyone can come?" JA: Everyone can participate but only members can vote.
- 12) MM suggests switching the agenda items: list all the possible topics then run through the Single Plan.

f. ADD TO LIST OF POSSIBLE DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1) Take off "School Security Partnerships" because it has to be a district wide policy and Anthony is working on something.
- 2) Lunch Room – already has so many changes – we can still talk about it.
- 3) World Language – it is happening but should it be going down. Start 4/5 and go down. Should mandarin start 4/5 before Spanish is pushed down 3rd?
- 4) Classroom atmosphere/ paint job – air conditioning?
- 5) Too much homework? We talk about this every year, but still a worthy conversation if people want to have it.
- 6) Cross off "Tennis courts"
- 7) Quality of field trips? JA matching common core – making sure there are at least 2 FT each grade. The alignment is happening at District level.
- 8) TP: It would be great to do Walk through Revolution for lower classes too.
- 9) SA: Parent Science committee – would teachers appreciate a group of parent scientists? MM: It would be great if it matches common core but not necessary to have an organized group. MM – years before they read article about first heart surgery and a parent was a cardiologist who brought in pigs hearts to dissect. JE: There can be a survey for new class parent occupation
- 10) School Garden – JA would be great to talk about and think about
- 11) Earth Day Fest – no chair for this year then maybe just in classrooms
- 12) Mindfulness – Oct 24 MM is going to give a presentation to WPG. Ties into all work we are doing for social emotional, common core, etc.
- 13) TP: homework & technology – how much do we want kids to use technology while doing homework? How much per night is too much?
- 14) JA: Bullying should be a discussion about respectful behaviors.
- 15) Community Service projects
- 16) Other Enrichment (like Evo) – maybe go to something different next year.
- 17) Gender difference – no hard Hillsborough data for any data. Maybe Judy Pappas can split the data from testing when she presents to site council. What if they fit into a stereotype should we push them into a different path knowing that certain subjects are more useful for later in life?

3. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

