

High School Planning Council Minutes 10/12/10

Members Present: Maryellen Symer, Jen Adams, Melissa Thomas, Tim Brunson, Dan LeClaire, Donna Thomas, Brian Kane, Jen Jonaitis, Jackie Grassmann, Amy Durant, Marta Roberts-Pekar, Lia Mavridou, Helen Smrstik, Sheryl Lauria, Jordan Armstrong

Announcements:

SGO

- Homecoming was successful.** SGO raised approximately \$2000. They sold 40 trays of dirt cake and an ipad!
- SGO would like to thank the TA for donating \$500.00 towards the fireworks.
- The Veteran's Day ceremony will be held on November 10th at 9:15. Senior homerooms will go outside and all other homerooms can witness the event via live streaming.
- The students will have the opportunity to voice their thoughts on the development of the upcoming budget with the superintendent.
- Suburban Council Leadership Day is November 1st. Eight students will be going to Global Foundries in Ballston Spa for the day.

PTSA

- Picture participation was lower than usual this year. Retakes will be November 10th. Even if students did not have their picture taken the first time they can do so on the 10th. Seniors should be reminded to get a new picture for their school ID.
- Look for Founder's Day nominations. Coming Soon!
- Next PTSA meeting is in November.

Cabinet

- Cabinet has not met since the last Planning Council Meeting.

Old Business:

Opening Week Concerns

-51 teachers responded to a 5 questions survey that went out at the end of September. Some of the results are below:

Question?	Yes	No
Should the 8 block day/34 min blocks be used in the future?	36	12
Were you comfortable taking attendance on the first day of school?	39	11
Have you tried using the powerschool grade book? (prior to any training)	27	22
Was the opening day condition of your classroom satisfactory?	31	10
Was your computer updated?	27	10 (+14 not sure)

Reminder: The custodial staff was cut by 1 full time position during the day. They are working hard to address all concerns.

Ideas were presented to improve the first day schedule:

-conduct the day with students visiting all A day classes followed by all B day classes (not switching from A1 to B1, A2 to B2

-During lunch students could go to auditorium for assembly with administrators instead of visiting homeroom for a second time. (This would require those homeroom teachers to do lunch duty while their classes are in the auditorium but would also eliminate the need for at least 2 of the 4 assemblies conducted during the first week of school).

New Business:

-Flu shots were given last week. If teachers are conducting class they can let their administrator know if they need coverage in order to get the shot. The timing of the shots is due to the doctor's schedule.

Committee Reports:

Committee	Co-chairs	Information
1. Safety and security	M. Symer	Has not met yet. Plans to meet in November.
2. Technology	B. Thomas/C. Layden	District Meeting is 10/12 to discuss funds for new equipment. High School committee meeting 10/21
3. Transition	M. Symer	Next meeting 10/19. Revising survey to send to graduates.
4. Health and Wellness	D. Manning/C.Litynski	Met last week. Watch for the minutes. Next meeting first week in November.
5. Academic Climate	T. Brunson/J. Adams	Next meeting 10/21. Some students should be starting the academic detention program next week.
6. Merit Diploma	M. Symer	
7. Student/Faculty Handbook	Administrators / J. Adams	Will discuss January 2011
8. Powerschool	J. Jonaitis/B. Thomas	Met 9/28. Next meeting 10/14. Two concerns: Need to have one contact person to address issues. Solution for now: PLEASE USE TIMS.

Second: the Parent Portal-
At the district
Powerschool Committee
meeting there was a long
discussion about having a
test group Pilot the parent
portal this year. While
this was the original
intention of the group,
more information needs
to be gathered by John
Capano before any
decision is made.

Other:

- Many students receiving paper announcements in homeroom are recycling them. The message is never getting home.
- PTSA will start posting more online. Parents will be notified that this is happening. Homeroom teachers may be notified to verbally announce the posting of something to students.
- Idea to send home reduced lunch forms with the school calendar at the start of each year rather than handing them out in homeroom.