

High School Council Meeting, October 13, 2009

Students: James and Connor Davock., and Erin Espinosa

Teachers: Frank Hoek, Marcelle Foucre, Dot Pearl, Mr. Pearson

Parents: JoAnne Muench and Sue Rorke (missing: Sue Fasoli and June Miller)

Handouts included a 4 Goal School Improvement Plan, and a draft list of Student Seminars (Goal #2) for the current school year. Also mentioned was a request by the School Committee to add an MCAS goal of improving scores to the list. Mr. Pearson thought that working on a goal of improving MCAS Science scores would be a logical place to start.

Discussion on the Goals:

Goal #1 – Career Day

- ◆ Discussion began with it being important starting with sophomores, and ended with consensus that the whole school should participate.
- ◆ James Davock volunteered to contribute some web research he has done on the topic.
- ◆ Mr. Pearson agrees that it would be worthwhile for an in-house ½ day event during school as long as someone volunteers to run it.
- ◆ Potentially ½ hour long sessions with all grades (800 students) with 25 students per session

Goal #2 – Student Seminars

A spreadsheet was passed out with several seminar events outlined. Each event was directed to specific grades. Seminars will usually take place during Study Halls, and topics are required. Here are the notes I took on the spreadsheet...

- ◆ Freshmen Transition is already in the works by Dot Pearl in her role as Adjustment Counselor/Freshman Transition Guidance Counselor. A parent night is planned, and student seminars on freshman transition will take place in Science classes Oct. 16 & 19.. A follow-up will be scheduled in the spring.
- ◆ Web Etiquette/Internet Safety will be for 10th graders, by Tracy Amaral.
- ◆ We all agreed on the importance of developing Study Skills Seminars, for 9th and 10th graders. Teachers and students could both be effective in presenting. Time Management could fall into this topic, or be separate.
- ◆ Guidance Group – Career Explorations –Naviance is also mentioned – would that be a topic in itself – i.e. do students require some training for that? 2 sessions for 10th graders was mentioned
- ◆ Guidance Groups for Juniors would probably have 4 – 5 seminars (spring), and would include College Application topics such as SAT's, Applying to Div 1, 2 or 3 as an athlete, MCAS, The College Essay, College Admissions presentations.
- ◆ Car Basics and Safety is 2 sessions for juniors. We have a Presenter. Mr. Pearson will follow up with Steve Fitzgerald of UTI.
- ◆ Banking is split into 2 sessions – a 10th grade session on the basics, and 12th grade session on credit. Anne Sherry has volunteered in the past.

- ◆ College Life for seniors may be planned the 1st week of January, and presented by recent H.S. graduates.
- ◆ Transition to College for seniors should be no later than March because they get busy and distracted.
- ◆ Other possible topics could include Dealing with Stress, Interviewing.

Goal #3 – Work with Guidance to assist in the college process.

- ◆ What can we do to support the guidance department? What could be offloaded to the Council or added to the process by the Council?
- ◆ Quite a bit is already in place with Freshmen Adjustment activities.
- ◆ It would be helpful to get all students onto Naviance earlier, as well as some College Board software.
- ◆ Dover has a 4 year calendar for freshmen – we should look at that and possibly apply it to Medway.
- ◆ We currently have a Junior and Senior College Prep packet; freshmen and sophomore packets which might include activity journals.
- ◆ The Seminar Program (Goal #2) could have several events related to College Applications.

Goal #4 wasn't discussed.