

## High School Council Meeting Minutes

For March 2, 2010

Students: James Davock, Erin Espinosa, (missing Connor Davock)

Teachers: Frank Hoek, Marcelle Foucre

H.S.: Mr. Pearson, Dot Pearl

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

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 6 at 3:30

### Discussions:

- ◆ There was a drinking incident this week that may impact students with MIAA and Extracurricular violations. The high school staff continues to bring in speakers, and to emphasize the risks.
- ◆ **Program of Studies** will be handled in a new way this year for current high school students. The process for incoming freshmen (i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> graders) will stay the same. Students will receive a list of all available classes for their grade level. Each teacher will enter a recommended class for the next year on the student's list. Students will then meet with a guidance counselor in small groups, and enter their recommended courses, and elective choices online. Teachers will review the input and follow up with students who don't follow recommendations. The completed recommendations will then be sent home to parents for a final review. Students will be introduced to this new process starting on March 9. A parent meeting is scheduled for March 22.
  - Dot recommended distributing the 4 year plan (blank) – at least to freshman – to help students get an overall vision of high school.
  - The Program of Studies was printed in an abbreviated form, and will be distributed to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only. The packet references an online, expanded Program. Grades 9 – 11 will use the online reference only.
- ◆ **The Seminar program** is continuing.
  - Possible college admissions personnel will hopefully be scheduled in late March or early April for a seminar on Interviewing with a possible business interviewing approach as well
  - Junior seminars are ongoing.
  - A Study Skills seminar was completed.
  - Banking Basics for 10<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled for April 8.
  - Dot recommends that her fall freshman seminar be followed up with a seminar on Cyber-bullying. Mr. Pearson thinks that a Web Etiquette presentation may be able to fit in with this topic.
  - No news on the Car seminar.
- ◆ **Dean Search process** continues. The jobs have been posted. A panel of people which will include one parent, one student and high school staff as well as others, will conduct the first round of interviews in March, and recommend a short list of finalists.
- ◆ Jimmy and Mr. Pearson completed a web page to provide on-line listings of all the afternoon announcements.

- ◆ Jimmy, Erin, Connor and Dot have met to review how Guidance can improve their role in the College Selection process. They agreed that Guidance currently has adequate information, but have suggested some different organization and/or formats. Mr. Pearson suggested that this could be a good task for the Council.
- ◆ Jimmy offered several topics for discussion
  - Students have inadequate time between classes. Mr. Pearson said that unfortunately, he is not able to lengthen this time. Students also have inadequate time to get to the buses after school has ended – and Mr. Pearson said that he can look into that problem.
  - Jimmy discussed thoughts of students providing feedback to teachers. Many teachers already solicit feedback. While Mr. Pearson agrees that it's a good thing, the group discussed the fact that students already have other mechanisms for reporting issues – by talking with Guidance Counselors or the Principal and Vice-principal. Mr. Pearson shared more about how he monitors and evaluates teachers.
  - Jimmy suggested that other schools have Senior Projects where seniors take none or few classes their last semester, and instead either intern somewhere, or take on their own project. Medway did this for one year – 2002-2003 school year. It's unclear what resources would be needed for this program. Mr. Jackson was principal the year that Senior Projects were offered, so someone may talk to him and see what it means.
  - Jimmy would like to see more “21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills”. Mr. Pearson responded that several things have already been folded into the curriculum, and that he intends to continue to add more. The 2011 NEASC guidelines will require more.
- ◆ The council discussed adding Community Service requirements, which benefits the school culture in addition to benefiting individual students. Currently, the high school has insufficient resources to add this.
- ◆ Mr. Pearson discussed his interest in implementing an Advisory Program. An Advisory Program splits students into groups of 10-15 with a school teacher or staff member (maybe 20 – 30 minutes every other week), and they work on a specific curriculum of core values and themes. Besides the value of the content, this program gives all students an adult connection within the school.

Minutes by Sue Rorke, March 3, 2010