

November 18, 2014-- Wilson High Site Council

Minutes taken by Karla Wenzel

Attendees:

- Teachers-- Amy Feller, William Boly, Rod Maack;
- Students-- Estee Emlen, James Rutledge-Gorman,
- Administrators--Brian Chatard, Ayesha Freeman
- Community—Megan Meisner, Cari Bacon Flick, Ariana Ward, Karla Wenzel

Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Minutes approved as corrected.

3. Old Business

a. Indistar School Improvement Plan tool

Comprehensive plan report distributed. Discussion ensued about individual items and philosophical discussion of the extent to which the school has control. There is lots of central office (BESC) and ODE authority over schedule in a one-size-fits-all approach. Brian gave history of ODE responding to complaint on PPS meeting minimum number of instructional hours per year. Site council members expressed desire to weigh in on issues of local v. district control with specific examples. Brian noted that education system is cyclical and current cycle is focused on compliance. The good news is that there are added resources in the system.

Next steps for administrator and department liaisons or their designees to identify two areas and write goals around them. Site council members are invited to provide feedback. Members expressed support for item 3.8.

b. WHS Site Council Work Plan Update

This item was skipped in the interests of time.

c. Work on Feb. 2015 parent information night for smarter balanced assessments—continued discussion from October 14, 2014 site council meeting.

The objective of a parent information night is to provide information to parents on smarter balanced assessment as a graduation requirement and anticipate the impact. Discussion could include how to prepare for it; comparison with OAKS test; and discuss what about the students who are meeting now (with OAKS as the assessment) who won't under the Smarter balanced assessment.

Ayesha: noted that work samples are a part of the way to meet the requirement.

Writing, reading and math—2 work samples each. WHS already implemented work samples—seniors who don't meet as juniors were identified and efforts focused on this group. Ayesha suggests starting with work samples for all kids so there is less pressure

on students the fall of their junior year. An example given was all language arts teachers would have students complete writing assessments. All students have to show up and attempt it.

Suggestions for parent education night: create a blog with updates to the blog following parent night; references to New York and Hawaii where we can collect lessons learned as both states have piloted this assessment. Another idea is to have parents do some of the sample questions.

Subcommittee appointed to assist Ayesha Freeman—Cari Bacon Fick and Karla Wenzel and Jamie Suehiro volunteered

4. New Business

a. Parent Teacher conferences and work on a feedback survey for participants/students

Council discussed parent teacher conferences held and Brian's survey of staff on process. The changes this year were to hold the conferences in late October instead of late November. The structure was addressed and feedback incorporated; WHS moved to longer conferences in the classroom and include the students (rather than arena style). Amy Feller lamented the loss of instructional time for conferences, wondering about their usefulness. Some discussion was had about parents whose students are doing just fine, but feel compelled to participate in conferences and take up time. Feller noted that if conferences were eliminated, parents always have the option to meet with teachers when they have a concern about their child. Other ideas from the floor included offering conferences to 9th graders and students who need them, online scheduling and surveying parents. Rod and Ariana to coordinate

b. Other business from the floor

Next meeting is December 9, 2014.