

Wilson High School Site Council Meeting

December 9, 2014

Attendance

Teachers/Staff: Amy Durham Rodney Maack, William Boly, Megan Meisner

Community: Ariana Ward, Lisa Sloan, Karla Wenzel, Cari Bacon Flick

Administrators: Brian Chatard,

Students: James Rutledge-Gorman

At Wilson High School, our mission is to educate young people in every capacity -- mind, body and spirit. We prepare students to succeed in their various roles in society: as workers who are responsible, innovative and ready to compete at a world-class level; as citizens who are both loyal to our community's democratic ideals and committed to the on-going work of forming a more perfect union in our heterogeneous society; and as adults who, in their private lives, balance the virtues of individualism, such as self-reliance, honesty, and personal initiative, with the cooperative ideals of justice, tolerance and compassion. In short, our goal is to foster in our students the core intellectual capacities and habits of the heart that will allow them to lead deeply engaged, productive and meaningful lives.

District Milestones for High Schools

1. 9th Grade – on track (6 credits- core classes)
2. On-time graduation

PPS Priorities for 2014-2015

1. Third Grade Reading
2. Closing the gap for suspensions/expulsions for students of color
3. High School Graduation

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of last meeting's minutes
Minutes approved as amended.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Indistar – School Improvement Plan tool – Brian
 - Last week an accreditation team (Advanced Ed) visited, met with principal and visited classrooms. No one from PPS central office here or coordinated with Advanced Ed visit; someone to support Brian in the follow up work and that it is connected with our culture and circumstances.
 - Emailed report to Chatard with highlights—recognized successes, gave recommendations for improvement. Very similar in nature to Indistar process—looking at all factors that impact school and identify strengths and improvement areas – expansive scope. Result is that WHS was accredited.
 - Recommends for January meeting that we review the report and the findings from Indistar self-assessment and use that as basis for framework for school goals and school improvement plan. Accreditation team surprised to learn that WHS does not have a school improvement plan.

- Questions were raised about the nature of accreditation and why the district would not be involved. The accreditation group is from a for-profit organization that works internationally in school accreditation.
 - Next steps: Brian to disseminate information to site council for reading in advance of January meeting. We will come prepared to work on improvement plan.
 - Discussion about how for teachers and others to impact all the various rules and practices related to schedules—example 8 period day. Decisions were made at time of pending labor strike and before budget was fully known. Discussion about the prescriptiveness of the approach in the district’s direction of schedule.
 - Brian-- It would be great to get the information in advance to inform the district’s decision before the decision needs to be made.
 - We have an opportunity to put Wilson parents on PPS committee on boundaries. Get names to Brian.
 - Arianna raised question of whether Wilson should have a focus—go deeper rather than broader in class offerings.
 - b. WHS Site Council Work Plan update – Cari
 - c. Work on February Parent information night for Smarter Balance assessments
 - i. Date (Brian)—suggests week of Feb 2-6th. Could be any night. Brian will check athletic schedules and choose a date.
 - ii. Agenda (Ayesha & Cari)—not ready yet.
 - d. Update on conferences feedback survey for parents/students (Rod, Arianna, Suehiro)
 Arianna: thought may be too early for survey as need to first consult data the school has. Without knowing what direction the school wants to take, it is difficult to craft questions for survey. What is goal? There was a survey conducted some years ago. Brian did a survey on arena style. Made decision after consulting staff to change format. There is no consensus with staff on conferences—who to attend, when to have them, etc. Cari: could put out a proposal and have people react to it. Could focus on parents who did participate and ask for feedback. (Changes this year-- venue change, teachers responsible for making own schedules, days of week held). James Rutledge-Gorman: could try conferences second semester. Brian: tough because no resources to do that.
4. New Business:
- a. Other business – from the floor
 - James Rutledge-Gorman-- Talked with Suehiro about smarter balanced assessment and her experience in Hawaii. The biggest issue with about 300 students taking the assessment, system crashes. Another issue is vocabulary used in the questions and that students may not understand what is being asked.
 - Brian: discussed teachers taking test at the last faculty meeting which elicited criticism of how the questions were structured. William Boly: testing should suit the discipline; some disciplines are not appropriate for multiple choice, e.g. language arts. There is no opt out other than students voting with feet but then there is a downside for the school—school gets penalized if not 95% students take it. This is where school report card went south this year.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2015