

# Wilson High School

## Site Council Minutes

September 15, 2015

**Members/Attendees:** Teachers: Amy Durham, Amy Feller, Rodney Maack, Andrew Butterfield, Jessica Rader, Nathan Pier, Josh Martin, Jamie Suehiro, Sarabeth Leitch, **Administrators:** Brian Chatard, Maude Lamont, Ayesha Freeman, **Parents:** Karla Wenzel, Claudia Carlough, Sharon Sheurer, Ariana Ward, Lisa Sloan, **Students:** Jason Salama, Katy Piwonka, Ian Morgan, Marley Kinser, Nina Vanspeybroeck, Daniel Nyounti-Herrera, Sayra Arroyo-Patino,

**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 ongoing 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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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 *Brian Chatard presided over the meeting in the absence of the Chair, Cari Bacon Fick. Historically the site council has met after school. This new meeting time of 815 am is aimed at increasing student and teacher participation. Most of the staff in attendance have been released to be part of an academic leadership team. The aim is to get classified employees on the site council but not in time for this meeting. Given the number of students on the council now (Yay!), Brian discussed his plan to bring them up to speed outside of site council meetings.*
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Approval of June 2015 minutes: *Minutes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.*
  - c. Approval of August 2015 Retreat minutes. *Given the number of changes to the Retreat minutes, the August 2015 Retreat Minutes will be considered for approval at the next site council meeting.*
2. Old Business:
  - a. Review of Site Council bylaws: mission, decision making process, makeup
    - **Chatard: mission is very specific—it is focused on school improvement. Student culture and climate weave into that. The focus needs to stay tight because there is a limited time to get the work done. The Wilson version of the school improvement plan is more robust (has more stuff). Following goal setting, resources are then allocated to meet the goals including targeting FTE, grants, professional development.**
    - **Process goal is to be more transparent about school improvement.**
    - **Decision making: there was discussion around majority and consensus decision making including voting with hands raised and fist to five consensus building. The Site Council bylaws direct decision making by consensus. They state: “the council shall use**

Karla Wenzel 9/16/2015 3:20 PM

**Deleted:** No decisions were made on how site council decisions will be made

consensus decision making on items requiring action. Consensus means that all members can support the decision of the council. The council will use the five finger consensus method to determine if a consensus has been reached. If a consensus cannot be reached after a reasonable time period and good faith efforts, the decision will be made by majority vote"

- Chatard noted that not all present are voting members. The Bylaws require that a quorum is necessary to approve action items and a quorum is 50% plus one of the voting members.
  - Sarabeth Leitch reviewed the site council operating norms which were posted on the wall: Ask Question, Engage Fully with Focus, Integrate New Information, Open Mind, Use what you learn, and Speak your truth. A-E-I-O-U-S
- b. Vote in student members.
- Discussion ensued about how students are appointed; some are from "Leadership" and peer counselors; others heard from teachers about the opportunity to serve on site council.
  - The hope is, in lieu of appointing students, they are elected by their peers in the future with existing students grandfathered in. Students are interested in how an election would work so that it is not a popularity election.
  - The question was posed and discussed about opportunities to inform students of the work of the site council. Among the opportunities discussed were student newspaper and information board.
  - **Action taken** to vote in student members as they are appointed by the Site Council. Motion by Lamont, Second by Warn. All in favor, no dissents or abstentions.
- c. Vote in Community member (Caron Kushner): No vote was taken as the community member was not present.
- d. Finalization of goals – has more happened on these or do we need to finalize in the meeting?
- Some goals come from the district. Graduation rate is a focus. Milestones framework comes from central office with milestones for each year, K-12, that looks like a ramp from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. One example is students reading proficiently at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade milestone relates to 9<sup>th</sup> graders success in completing 6 core classes (no failing grades). Interventions are taken to shore this up and include attendance interventions, credit recovery, and other items. Sarabeth Leitch is teacher leader in this 9<sup>th</sup> grade focused effort. The goal is 100% -- about 356 students.
  - Teacher concern was raised related to 100% goal and what is in teacher or Wilson's control to effectuate.
  - The Retreat produced four goals for the school year:
    - graduation rate of 92% for entire population with no subgroups more than 5% below the total average. This relates to current performance of 87% in 2015 graduating class. Discussion ensued about what this number represents as it does not include students who obtain GEDs or finish in a 5<sup>th</sup> year. The 92% goal for this next academic year was selected as it was the highest graduation rate in PPS (Lincoln) last year. The Wilson class of 2016, when they were freshman, had a 100% meeting the 9<sup>th</sup> grade milestone so the graduation rate could be higher than 92%.
    - Increase in historically underrepresented students in AP course and "3" performance on exams from 28 to 33%. In the past, Wilson has not had an AP goal. Wilson has the most AP classes in the district (and maybe in the state). If the goal is adopted, the discussion becomes what actions to have more students take AP classes and how to increase performance on exam? In

*response to question, Chatard volunteered that this could include professional development for teachers, exam prep on Saturdays, and more.*

- *; 100% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders begin 10<sup>th</sup> grade with at least 6 credits.*
  - *90% of students attend 90% or better of all classes (including excused and unexcused absences).*
  - **Action:** *the Council approved the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, graduation, attendance, students in AP classes and exam performance; and discipline goal related to reducing exclusionary discipline for students of color, by 50%.*
- e. Google forum update – Sarabeth: *Time did not allow for this item. Forward to next meeting agenda.*
3. New Business: *Time did not allow for this part of the agenda. Forward to next meeting agenda.*
- a. Choose chair: set agenda with Brian, send agenda out to webmaster and site council 1 week prior
  - b. Choose recorder: take minutes, send to webmaster to post, make changes to minutes at next month's meeting

**Meeting this year:**

- 10/20
- 11/3
- 12/8
- 1/5
- 2/9
- 3/1
- 4/5
- 5/10
- TBD for June