

PGHS School Community Council - Tuesday, January 8, 2019

In Attendance: Paula Jardine, Jill Memmott, Cheryl Williams, Jen Walker, Russ Mayo, Kyle Sanderson, Josh Tenney, Kurt Wallenzien, Miriam Richards, Amanda Siebert, Cheri Hardman, Jana Porter, Amy Smithson, Steve Stewart, Cristie Wood, Heather Downs, Stacey Squires, Kori Thomas, Laura Clement, Niels Fugal

Welcome – Cristie Wood -Miriam Richards, intern, and Mark Clement, ASD Board Member, were welcomed

Dr. Stewart motioned to approve the minutes from December, Josh Tenney seconded.

The minutes were approved unanimously

Dr. Stewart—School Boasts and Brags and other news:

At the Nike sponsored Boys Basketball trip to Hawaii, the boys were focused, responsible, and did well (ranked 53 in the nation, #1 in the state) The ASB was thanked for approving the trip and three faculty were thanked for helping the boys finish the term work before they left.

Dance and cheer worked hard and won major competitions

The SCC approved money for a February PLC in Pheonix which 10 people (administrators and teachers) will attend, gaining experience, information, and knowledge to bring back to our school.

Cristie Wood mentioned the awesome Christmas concerts by the fine arts department.

Dr. Stewart—Math/English Intern-Discussion and vote:

Dr Stewart reminded the group that in previous year the SCC had funded ½ FTE fro a math or English intern. He asked that the board decide now to approve that some expenditure, so our school can be in competition for the best interns.

This position makes a huge difference in reducing class size and can lead to a full position. Amy Smithson, Math, further stated the value of these interns to the math department.

Jana Porter motioned to prepapprove math or Englilsh intern funding. Laura Clement seconded. The motion was approved.

Jill Memmott—Advocacy Presentation:

The advocacy group tracks attendance and grades and have seen graduation rates raise to 95.2%. This group calls parents and the meets with 300 students. To facilitate learning, a lunch study lab(staffed by sterling scholars and math leaders) tutors students. Dr. Stewart attributed the improved graduation rates to the full and rich interventions of the advocacy group. Amy Smithson noted the importance of knowing which advocacy person is helping which student and a new sheet with this list will be provided. Jana porter noted that PTSA would like to help with sponsorship of students with needs. There is a study skills class (homework hour) and a guided study that is run by the advocacy group where students with issues are often referred. The rising GPA's of students with this intervention help was noted by Kurt Wallenzien. Jill Memmott said the class goal is "Everyone pass all classes. Heather Downs is more in charge of recovering credit or graduating early. Mark Clement, ASD board member, noted that at a recent conference a New York school graduation rate was 60%. Niels Fugal, past SCC chair) mentioned that when the advocacy program started PGHS graduation rate was at 70%. The biggest problem seems to be attendance and parental involvement.

Kurt Wallenzien—Graduation Rate Issues:

School Counseling report was presented with chronically absent, dropout and graduation rates highlighted. Obstacles to graduation include attendance (fall behind in classes) learned helplessness especially without the support of busy parents, depression, mental illness...Stacy Squires noted that skills to combat metal challenges are taught in health class, but, were not often applied by students. Josh Tenney noted that small group classes are held to help students understand anxiety and depression and various coping strategies. Mindfulness is used to help students better live in the moment. Amy Smithson noted that some students are not just struggling to graduate, but are crumbling under the pressure of trying to be perfect.

Kory Thomas—Digital Citizenship:

It was noted from an e-mail survey to the faculty that digital citizenship (online safety, balancing time, digital footprint, social media, copyright issues, cyber bullying...) are being taught in many classes. Russ Mayo, media and radio instructor, discussed digital citizenship taught in art classes: digital media and radio instructor, noted that digital media, unacceptable prank pulling, cyber bullying, copyright ...The CS department is also doing great teaching in this area. Collaborating as a PLC is a goal. United Wy's program of kindness, Everyday strong was mentioned. Kory Thomas concluded that the teaching of digital citizenship is happening in our school.

Cheri Hardman moved to close the meeting. Amanda Siebert seconded.

Meeting closed. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 6 at 12:00