

# **WALNUT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL**

## **LOCAL SCHOOL DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

6:00pm

Minutes

### **Attendees:**

Beth Ormsby, Kathy Restle, Joe Stewart, Kendall Young, Laura Stith-Deck, Meg Dietz, Mitch Perdrix and Brian Sweeney. Terrance Poole arrived for Executive Session.

### **Minutes:**

Kathy Restle motioned that the November minutes be approved, seconded by Joe Stewart. The voting was unanimous and the minutes were approved.

### **Principal Report:**

Mr. Chambers reviewed the State Report Card for 2017-2017 with copies given to attendees. The report card is available on the Ohio Board Of Education website. WHHS received a D on Progress based on the states measurements of student growth. Mr. Chambers clarified the difficulty Walnut has with this measurement because of the number of students designated as “gifted”. Based on the level of achievement these students have made, the relative room for growth is less than what is available to other students. This is then reflected in the Progress score for WHHS. Mr. Chambers described the State’s measurement includes resources made available for the students designated as “gifted”. This is problematic for WHHS because the curriculum is already geared for the “gifted” student and substantial resources are built in to the rigor of the WHHS education. This is complicated by a change in the measurement being assigned to the specific student and carried forward year to year instead of being specific to the teacher. This issue was addressed in past years by a waiver provided by the State for this area of measurement. For the 2016-2017 School Year the waiver was

discontinued. Mr. Chambers is working with the District to address the perceived decline in growth for these students based on their designation.

Mr. Chambers also reviewed the changes for graduation requirements which now will focus not only on proficiency but also will include measurements of growth for each student. The graduation trends for both CPS and Ohio continue upward. The percentage of students meeting the Prepared for Success expectation for the State is 83.2. CPS students meeting this goal are 36.1%. The district is discussing the algebra 1 requirement for graduation. Mr. Chambers also noted that 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing has been identified as an area for improvement. Brian Sweeney suggested that as Comparative Analysis becomes a component in the English curriculum, student performance declines. He suggested that LSDMC ask the English Department to look into the data surrounding this and propose ways to address this issue.

Mr. Chambers discussed the latest SCPP test results. There have been 3 sessions of the SCPP (Admission testing for non CPS students) and one of the Terra Nova administered for CPS students. Out of the 4 tests, 793 students received admission level scores for WHHS. There were 652 students from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade tested. This is with the present composite score of 140. If the scores were adjusted for admissions to the 70/70 level without composite scoring, 81 students would become ineligible. (This includes both Terra Nova and SCPP). Mr. Chambers indicated that this goes to support the assertion that an adjustment to the 70/70 scoring would not be detrimental to an isolated demographic group as the range of students left off the admission covers many demographics.

Mental Health: WHHS has entered into contract with Fernside Center for Grieving Children for Grief Counseling. As of the December meeting Mr. Chambers reports that 10 students have been enrolled and there is room 2 to 3 more. More groups will be added if necessary. The groups are open to any student that has been touched by loss. There are also plans to have a viewing of the movie "The S Word" focusing on reducing the stigma surrounding the discussion of suicide. The proposed date will be March 1<sup>st</sup>. The creators of the movie as well as support

specialists from WHHS, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health and One in Five will be on hand to provide information, support and to conduct a question and answer session with the viewers.

Staffing: Mr. Chambers has worked with the district on the issues of adequate Civil Service staffing. At this time WHHS has an opening for one security guard and one clerical position and two night custodians. Keith Fischer has transferred to Aiken. At this time we are happy to have Mr. Sams as our interim Facilities Manager having come out of retirement to help. He has already made significant improvements in the running of the school, especially with the HVAC equipment.

**Executive Session:** (6:40pm).

At the conclusion of the Principal's report, Steve Baker moved that we go into Executive Session to discuss the Principal Search. Brian Sweeney seconded this. Bill Myles, Assistant Superintendent responsible for Principal Review addressed the LSDMC.

Executive Session ended at 7:40pm. There was no other business so Kathy Resltle moved that we adjourn at this time. It was seconded by Laura Stith-Deck and the meeting was adjourned with a unanimous vote.