

Walnut Hills High School

LSDMC Minutes for October 16, 2014

In Attendance: Jeff Brokamp, Amy Kappers, Tracy Mason, Jolene Baldwin, Andy Kolesar, Monna Beckford, Jeff Lazar, Brian Sweeney, Mitchell Perdrix, Steve Baker, Elena Miyasato

1. Amy Kappers moved for approval of the September minutes, Andy Kolesar motioned, with the caveat that typos will be corrected, seconded by Monna Beckford. All in favor. Minutes approved with corrections.
2. Enrollment Data Review
 - a. Mr. Brokamp passed out data: class sizes over 3 years, enrollment over 4 years and building capacities
 - b. Mr. Brokamp began the conversation stating that we need to create some solutions for the burgeoning enrollment
 - c. Conversation ensued regarding point of consideration and general approach to this issue
 - i. Andy Kolesar challenged whether the benchmark of 3 years ago was valid
 - ii. Brian Sweeney Asked why we need to justify wanting to have lower enrollment vs. the Board justifying the growing population
 - iii. Mr. Brokamp outlines some landmines to consider
 1. Eliminate traveling teachers – each teacher needs own classroom:
Potential Push-back - Our teachers teach 5 bells out of 7 – most in CPS teach 6 /7. That means that at any given time 28% of our classrooms are empty. Board may also push-back that we should move (like everyone else) to a 6-bell model. (This would negatively impact our ability for each student to enjoy the breadth of current offerings. We would need to reduce our class offerings.)
 2. Facility constraints: Need to consider locker availability, common space capacity and safety issues
Potential push-back – Board may offer additional physical space.
 3. Enforce enrollment dates!
While these policies have been in place for sometime it is a political issue that the Board has historically avoided.
 4. Need to stay away from “emotional” triggers that cannot be quantified:
 - iv. Steve Baker remarked that we need to stay away from the physical/facility limitations. Potentially set hard-number limit

for 7th grade enrollment only due to the critical nature of getting the right start at Walnut.

1. Mr. Brokamp spoke to our “no penalty” reentry policy when a child fails out – and returns the next year after a successful experience at another school. Mentioned that not many kids come back.
 - v. Conversation shifted to AP efficacy with growing numbers
 1. Brian Sweeney suggested that we compare our AP enrollment by class to Wyoming, Indian Hill, Seven Hills
 2. Mitch Perdrix echoed Sweeney’s concern regarding AP class sizes. Pointed out that the Threshold Student is most at risk when class sizes are too large. The best interest of our students need to be considered first and foremost.
 - d. Once we build our case we will need to contact Ms. Ronan to present. Mr. Brokamp didn’t know whether we would present to Ms. Ronan or the Committee of the Whole.
 - e. Decision was made for Tracy Mason to create a Google Docs page where we can each contribute our comments and develop a presentation.
 - f. We should focus on: Safety, Curriculum, Common Areas (facility constraints), and the Threshold Student.
 - g. Amy Kappers suggested that we also align our interests with ILT (as well as get their support) and the LTP.
3. Student’s Report:
 - a. PSATs finished!
 4. Principal’s report:
 - a. Mr. Brokamp passed out provisional calendar for 2015-16
 - i. Start date is August 17 – will finish May 27
 - ii. Conversation ensued regarding potentially taking the entire week of Thanksgiving off.
 - iii. Brian Sweeney remarked that this would be problematic as November is always abbreviated due to Veteran’s Day, Teacher/Parent Conference Day, and the 3-days that we traditional take for Thanksgiving. This stop-start nature makes it difficult to accomplish educational goals.
 5. Chairperson report:
 - a. Amy began review of WHHS LSDMC By-Laws
 - b. Collectively we made some changes
 - c. Andy Kolesar graciously volunteered to review and create verbiage for the missing portion of the document
 - d. Amy will email for board vote once finished.
 - e. These are due to CPS by November 3.
 6. Community report:

- a. Monna working with a small committee received a \$15,000 grant from Thriving Communities to promote healthy lifestyles.
 - b. Evanston plans to use the money to create a Safe Route to School, as so many of the Evanston students walk to school through rough areas
 - i. Will create play stations that promote healthy outdoor activities (similar to a parkour) – even a telescope is planned
 - ii. She asked if we could contribute faculty members to assist in certain points along the kids walk to school.
 - iii. Remarked on the success of Community Blend – a coffee shop owned by an Evanston resident.
7. Andy Kolesar motioned to adjourn. Brian Sweeney seconded motion.
Meeting adjourned. Sursum ad summum.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Mason.