

Walnut Hills High School
Local Decision Making Committee Meeting

March 19, 2015

Minutes

7:00PM

Attendees

The following LSDMC members were in attendance: Steve Baker (acting chairman and secretary for a day), Jeff Brokamp, Brian Sweeney, Jeffrey Lazar, _____, _____ and _____. (I need help here – I did not circulate an attendance sheet)

Approval of Minutes

As there was not a quorum present, no action was taken on the minutes for the [January/February __, 2015] meeting.

Discussion of Curriculum

Ms. Savage-Gentry gave an update on the curriculum to the committee.

First, she discussed adding a new Seminar AP course in 2015-16 and Research AP course in 2016-17. As there will be two sections, two teachers are currently training for the course. Students completing these courses would have the opportunity to earn an AP Capstone diploma with completion of four additional AP courses. This may be recognized by some colleges for credit.

Ms. Savage-Gentry also summarized her recent trip to the East Coast to visit several leading high schools and colleges. The emphasis was on students gaining higher level critical thinking skills.

Ms. Savage-Gentry also discussed making small modifications to the 10th and 11th grade English options to increase student interest.

Also, a pilot teaming program will be tested in 2015-16 for 7th grade teachers. Similar to the 8th and 9th grade Honors programs, teachers in Social Studies, Latin, Science and English will coordinate and plan schedules together. This approach should provide students with a unique and more coordinated experience. There will also be two capstone projects for the program during the year. There will be 150 students in the pilot. Training for the teachers will take place this summer.

Principal's Report

Mr. Brokamp reported that the optioning process is well underway and the administration is merely filling in gaps.

As part of the budgeting process, Mr. Brokamp asked for two additional full time teachers for 2015-16. These have not been allocated yet. Speaking of the budget, there are levies coming up over the next few years that will need to be approved in order to support CPS budgets.

Mr. Brokamp reported that the testing position will now be covered by the budget and no longer supported by the WHHS Alumni Foundation. He also reported that the school was in the process of administrating approximately 9,300 tests, which have caused significant problems for the students' schedules and curriculum.

There is a new partnership with Douglas Elementary School that matches mentors and coaches with 5th graders. It also matches professionals to coach the mentors. The goal is to help young African American men succeed and go on to attend Walnut Hills High School. Mr. Brokamp then reported on the College Credit Plus program, which was presented to the Parent Association. This is dual enrollment program with UC, UC Blue Ash, Cincinnati State, Miami University and Chatfield College.

The Foreign Travel program was then discussed. This is a short term study abroad program that is an adjunct to the foreign language requirement. As part of Walnut Hills' mission, every language must promote a travel opportunity. A brochure will be created and parents will be invited to attend a fair to learn more about each language travel program.

Mr. Brokamp also reported that the Student Classics League was runner up in the state and the Mock Trial Team made the final 16 in the state. The success of the Mock Trial team may give rise to a junior high team next year. And last but not least, Mr. Brokamp reported that there were nine choral ensembles at Walnut Hills and four of these went to the state competition. All four received a rating of 4 or superior, which has never happened before.

Student's Report

_____ presented the student report. She said that Student Congress voted to support a new Arabic foreign language class offering. Lots of events underway at the school, including the Breaking Down the Barriers talent show and St. Baldricks fundraiser, which had 37 students shave their heads for cancer research. Two other fundraisers are coming up: the Junior Car Smash and the Dance Marathon. Prom tickets also also going on sale soon.

Evanston Community Report

There was no Evanston Community Report.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.