

Walnut Hills High School
Local Decision Making Committee Meeting

October 22, 2015

7:00PM

Minutes

Attendees

The following LSDMC members were in attendance: Members Attending: John Chambers, Mitch Perdrix, Jeff Lazar, Brian Sweeney, Amira Mesmer, Emily Bond, Felicia Williams, Jeff Brokamp and Steve Baker. Guests included Bill Kern and Jerry Moore. Jeff Brokamp acted as Recorder for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Jeff Lazar noted that the draft minutes circulated for the September 17, 2015 LSDMC meeting did not list him as attending, which he indeed did. Felicia Williams then moved that the minutes for the September 27, 2015 LSDMC meeting be approved with the change in attendance noted. Emily bond seconded. The minutes were approved.

Confirmation of Roster and Bylaws

A roster was circulated and members marked the year of their term on the sheet and confirmed their contact information. Members were reminded that they can serve two (2) two-year terms for a maximum total of four (4) consecutive years. Once members reach this limit, they will need to wait a minimum of two years before seeking re-election.

Steve Baker told the members that he feels that we do not need to amend the bylaws relative to enrollment due to his conversation with the in-house counsel at CPS. The group agreed that we would submit the bylaws as amended last year (September 2014).

Updated rosters and bylaws are due to CPS by November 3, 2015.

District LSDMC Report

Steve related that a hot button topic in the district LSDMC meeting was open meetings and enrollment. LSDMC meetings are to be open and well publicized. If meeting times are changed, they must be communicated effectively. There was also a discussion about the new magnet school policy specific to Fairview and the board thought the lottery process is a better approach than camping out. At the district LSDMC meeting, Steve asked a question about enrollment and he was told that enrollment is in the purview of the school board.

Enrollment Update

Jeff provided an update on enrollment. The superintendent appears to be preparing a proposed policy that would set the final registration on the final Thursday of March each year. Steve suggested that the LSDMC prepare a resolution to support such a policy.

Steve made a motion that a resolution be prepared as such, "The Walnut Hills LSDMC supports the proposed CPS policy that the final registration of students new to Walnut Hills for the following year will occur on the last Thursday in March of each year". Felecia Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Accreditation Update

Jeff presented the progress on the accreditation process including completion of all the stakeholder surveys. There has been significant movement towards the collection of evidence for the five standards. Bill commented that the broader the stakeholder involvement the better...and the better the understanding of the school mission by a broad group of people the more impressive the impact. The external team will come to Walnut Hills on February 16, 2016 and tour on the February 17 and 18, 2016. Bill pointed out that the group will be looking for trends that need attention. This is not an evaluation of teachers or any individual situation. Bill described a situation where one school had every student using a calculator that was projected on the screen in the front of the room and was so motivating to the students. That is an example of an impressive innovation. Bill went on to describe the panel of observers that make up the visiting evaluators ranging from high performing high school representatives to college representatives. About 18 members plus the lead evaluator will make up the team. Bill answered Brian's question that there are quite a number of high schools that are accredited around the city. There are three schools in CPS presently accredited and four set up to go this year and next. Bill explained that virtually every room will be visited and that the process takes place every five years with a mid-term review. Felicia asked what is the LSDMC's role in this process. Steve explained that we need to be informed via the sub-committee. Bill explained that the panel will be interviewing the governance groups including the LSDMC. Bill also added that it is important to have a well-balanced group of students in the panels. Bill added that the community should be represented in the Advance Ed process.

Steve asked that Kathy come to the LSDMC meeting in November to update the group on the Advance Ed process. Brian noticed that the parent and student representatives were not a diverse group and this may need to be addressed.

Principal's Report

Jeff presented that the ILT had a long agenda yesterday that included a conversation about the merits of groupings such as AA and honors programs. A rich conversation evolved regarding the merits of grouping, teaming and tracking. There was a diverse set of views on the subject.

Student's Report

Amira reported that the final games for the homecoming weekend were to be played tomorrow (Friday), the dance is Saturday night at the Duke Energy Center.

Evanston Community Report

There was no Evanston Community Report.

Other Business

Steve asked that members identify topics for future LSDMC meetings. Brian suggested that the ILT topics be discussed. Steve wondered if the Alumni Foundation should report. Bill suggested that the notion of a publicity plan for the school should be discussed. It was agreed that Advanced Ed would be discussed in November.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.