

Walnut Hills High School
Local Decision Making Committee Meeting

January 21, 2016

7:00PM

Minutes

Attendees

The following LSDMC members were in attendance: Jeff Brokamp, Denise Beauchamp, Felicia Williams, Brian Sweeney, Steve Baker, Emily Bond, John Chambers and Jeff Lazar.

Approval of Minutes

Felicia made a motion to approve December's minutes; Denise seconded.

AdvancEd Report

Jeff Brokamp reported that the teachers had completed the self assessment and collected evidence from all five standards. He also reported that a high percentage of parents (40%) and students (61%) participated in their portion of the assessment.

Areas which ranked consistently high across all stake holder groups:

- Our school's purpose is clearly focused on student success.
- Our school has high expectations for students in all classes
- Our school provided opportunities for stakeholders to be involved in the school.
- Our school provided a challenging curriculum.
- Our school has a process to inform students of their learning expectations and standards of performance.
- Our school provides opportunities for students to participate in activities that interest them.

Areas which ranked consistently lower across stakeholder groups:

- Our school provides instructional strategies and interventions to address individual learning needs of students.
- In our school, each student is well known by at least one adult advocate who supports that student's educational experience.

Steve asked how Jeff B. would argue with the low points of the survey. Jeff said there's a fine line between enabling and supporting students. The wording on the survey was "how much does the teacher change instruction to meet needs of students." That could be interpreted different ways. Steve offered that there are plenty of ways to customize student experience such as clubs, options and class offerings e.g. CP, AA, AP. Emily mentioned that she was surprised and did not agree with the lower results. John wondered if students'

response might be lower on these points because they simply don't know what they have at Walnut Hills compared to other schools. Brian shared that in his class the students discussed the survey and the differences of opinion were vast. Felicia wondered if the students on the struggling end of the spectrum are the ones who scored the lowest on individualized instruction. Jeff L. offered that this is not a process to make us look good but to find way that we can improve. Jeff B. said one thing that came through on the survey results and through the group work was to use individual information that we already know about individual students to help each student succeed. What we can do better is to use class data to drive instruction.

Felicia suggested the involvement piece may be a problem with the Evanston community because there's a bit of a vacuum in leadership there but the greater community has used the building for meetings, etc. LSDMC may be asked to be here on February 16th. Kathy Restle is arranging this and will let us know.

Principal's Report

Jeff B. asked what we'd like to hear about in his report going forward. Denise said enrollment. Jeff B. reported that CPS had passed the policy as we had discussed last month. Steve said he'd like to discuss teachers' returning tests to students after they take them. A discussion followed about the benefits and pitfalls of that for teachers and students. Jeff B. said the ILT agenda will be focusing on cheating and technology. Brian asked about testing and Jeff B. outlined the format/dates for testing. There will be a three week window for Reading/SS and a three week window for Math/Science starting the week after Spring Break (April 4). There will be no more required OGT (10th grade) to graduate but instead there will be a minimum combined score on the test.

Student's Report

There was no student report.

Evanston Community Report

There was no Evanston Community Report.

Denise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff B seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 18th at 7pm.