

WALNUT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
LOCAL DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Minutes

The Meeting was opened at 6pm

Attendees: The following LSDMC members were present: Mitch Perdrix, Steve Baker, Joe Stewart, Rich Coleman, Kendall Young, Laura Stith Deck, Kathy Restle (for Principal Search), Meg Dietz, Terrance Poole, John Chambers, Brian Sweeney and Ayn Speiser.

Open Meeting Attendees: Jerron Gray

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the October 19th meeting were amended to clarify staff representation for Principal Search responsibilities. Joe Stewart and Kathy Restle will alternate with John Chambers. The amended minutes were moved for approval by Rich Coleman and seconded by Steve Baker. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Priorities:

Based on the Cincinnati Public School Guidelines for the LSDMC, the following items were outlined as Priorities for the committee to address during the 2017-2018 school year.

Start Time: It was noted that the district was unlikely to provide an increase to the transportation budget to allow for the additional buses required to make the start time significantly later. There are no late starting schools with equivalent student numbers that Walnut Hills could switch with. It may be possible to have the start time moved back 15-30 minutes according to the Transportation Supervisor.

Bylaws: During the October meeting it was decided that a possible change to the Bylaws may be necessary addressing the Community Membership. The Bylaws state that the Evanston

Community Council should be appointing a member to the Walnut LSDMC. This appointment has not been consistently made possibly because the ECC meets on the same night as the walnut LSDMC. Two recommendations were made by Mr. Chambers. The first would be to reach out to the Evanston Block Watch to put forward a candidate as they are the local community organization most involved with the Walnut community. The second would be to agree with the ECC on a different meeting schedule. Rich Coleman will contact Ms. Atkins of the ECC and EBW regarding these ideas and report during the December meeting. A review of the Bylaws will be completed during the May meeting and changes will be adopted for the 2018-2019 School Year.

Assessment of the School Needs and LSDMC Goals: The LSDMC will set goals for the school based on the School Report Card to be discussed in the December meeting and requests sent from ILT based on teacher surveys. The LSDMC will provide a midyear and end of the School Year Progress Report going forward as required by the Cincinnati Public School LSDMC Guidelines

Long Range Plan: The LSDMC discussed the need to assess the progress towards achieving the Long Range Plan which will include the writing of a Vision Statement. It was noted that the addition of a Vision Statement to the Long Range Plan and Mission Statement would provide additional transparency for the staff and the community. It would be a beneficial addition to the LSDMC Guidelines. Mitch Perdrix would bring this to the next ILT meeting. ILT will be asked to begin the process of writing a Vision Statement with updates provided to the LSDMC. The first review will be set for the January meeting. Completion of the Vision Statement set for May of 2018.

The LSDMC will set goals for the school based on the Long Range Plan using information provided by the School Report Card and data collected during the accreditation process. Departments will be asked to set specific goals and report to LSDMC regarding the progress made during the upcoming months. Mr. Chambers will review the current School Report Card during the January meeting.

Budget: The Bylaws state that the LSDMC should adopt a school budget. The Budget for WHHS is decided by the district. LSDMC will review and comment on the budget annually. This will provide transparency regarding the funds available to the school. LSDMC will then follow through with accepting the budget as written or opening a dialogue with the Central Office outlining school needs not met by the funding provided.

Review and discussion of the 2017-2018 School Budget will be placed on the February agenda.

LSDMC Annual Evaluation: The LSDMC is required to complete and file an annual evaluation of progress towards meeting the goals set forth at the beginning of the School Year. Laura Stith Deck reviewed the contents of the evaluation. The evaluation will be included in the May agenda.

Principal Report:

Mr. Chambers reviewed his goal to increase the access for the students in areas of Mental Health and Wellness and ways to address the level of anxiety the students are dealing with. He addressed that this issue is also related to the pressures of our current enrollment. The addition of one day a week for Julie Cathy the school Psychologist has been made and the referral process is being refined.

Enrollment: Mr. Chambers continues to address the issues of enrollment with the central office. LSDMC discussed options for increasing access to alternative schools for the students who are not successful at Walnut. It was suggested that as part of the Community Learning Center Goals included in the LSDMC Guidelines, Walnut would reach out to Spence, Dater and Withrow to develop supportive transition processes. This might include academic support for students when they first enter these schools. It may also include cooperative teaching or sharing of resources. These ideas and others are in the preliminary discussion phase and will continue to be explored by LSDMC.

The SCPP Test results from this year's first round of testing for non CPS students were reviewed. 221 students took the test. 119 students scored the combined 140 and averaged 140 presently required for admission the WHHS. If the requirement for Walnut admission was raised to the 70/70 proposed without an option to average the scores to reach 140, 4 students would be removed from the eligible status. This number will help clarify the effects on the demographics at Walnut if the admission scores are increased. Mr. Chambers will give additional data regarding the effects on demographics as the results for the additional Terra Nova and SCPP testing for this year are made available.

Mr. Chambers addressed the change in the District Lottery for alternative schools within CPS. (Gamble and Clark). This year's lottery will be complete before the final registration for Walnut to eliminate the confusion over where a student will attend based on their options. Last year some families believed that if they had to register for Walnut while still on the list for admission into an alternative school. It was also unclear to some families that the student's

registration could be changed if they were invited to attend the alternative even though they had registered for Walnut.

ILT:

Mitch Perdrix reported that ILT did not meet in November. An electronic vote was made available to the ILT members regarding the AIR Testing. Should it be all in one week or should it be split over two weeks. As of November 15th, the vote was 5 to 4 in favor of one week with 2 votes abstaining.

Student Report:

Kendall Young asked if the students could have more input regarding the Dress Code. She was referred to Mr. Smith who is Chair of the Discipline Committee.

Additional Business:

The LSDMC also discussed the need to provide maximum transparency for all decisions and discussions by the committee. The members will reach out to the stakeholders they represent and seek input regarding the state of the school. This feedback will be brought to the December meeting.

The Teacher Representatives invited faculty to a meeting to get input regarding the status of the school at present. Approximately 30 teachers attended to present their views.

Executive Session:

For purposes of Principal Search discussions, LSDMC moved to Executive Session.

The meeting was called for adjournment at 7:58pm by Laura Stith Deck. It was seconded by Terrance Poole. Voting was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.