

**Walnut Hills High School**  
**Local Decision Making Committee Meeting**  
**February 20, 2019**  
**6:00PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** John Chambers, Laura Stith Deck, Ashley Thomas Morgan, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Esme Wright, Jessica Smitson, Rich Coleman, Sylvia Nelson, Brad Smith, Lisa Brokamp, and Richard Graeter

1. Introductions- new community committee member

- Welcome Richard Graeter as Walnut Hills' newest LSDMC member. He is acting in the role of community member, but also brings many other perspectives as an alum of Walnut Hills, a parent of a recent graduate and a parent of a current student.

2. Approval of January minutes

- Motion to approve: J. Chambers, seconded by Rich Coleman

3. Old business

- Class rank - What do other schools who no longer use class rank do re:  
valedictorian/salutatorian-share research - Information was shared from local school districts as well as from districts with similar rigorous curriculums, similar college prep offerings, in addition to no longer using class rank.
  - Mariemont
    - Identifies a Valedictorian and Salutatorian in a private conversation with the two students.
  - Solon
    - Does not have a Valedictorian or Salutatorian and hasn't had these for the last fifteen years. The top fifteen students are recognized at a dinner in April.
    - They do have a student speaker at graduation. The student speaker is chosen by a panel of judges who listen to speeches and choose a speaker.
  - Indian Hill
    - Currently no established plan, but would like to stay in the loop with our decision
  - Wyoming
    - Identifies Valedictorian and Salutatorian
  - Sycamore
    - Audition for graduation speaker, chosen by a panel of judges
  - Carmel (IN)
    - Utilizes a Distinguished Grad Program Matrix, which assigns point values to a variety of academic, extracurricular, and community service achievements/experiences.
    - Distinguished Grad is offered to the top 100 students (~1000 students in graduating class)
  - Group was interested in the concept of Distinguished Grad program. However, 100 is a lot of students to recognize. Cum Laude is top 20% of class. Recommended to look at graduating classes of 2018 and 2019 to see how many students would earn distinguished recognition, to see how it shakes out.
  - When the announcement was made to students at Grade Level Meetings re: eliminating class rank, there was not much disagreement about decision. Students did not have

negative comments about the discontinuation of class rank, especially after hearing the reasoning using the top 10% eligibility example for OSU Engineering program.

- Establish procedure for determining valedictorian/salutatorian
  - For the next LSDMC meeting on March 21 we will have a working meeting to share our recommended revisions to the Carmel Distinguished Grad Matrix, removing and adding specific opportunities (academic, service and leadership, and extracurricular) aligned to Walnut offerings.
  - At end of meeting on March 21 a subcommittee will be created and charged with creating a plan to propose at the April LSDMC meeting.
  - The subcommittee proposal will be reviewed by LSDMC and then shared with student congress and staff.
- Mental Health - 1N5 update
  - Discussion opened with news about the death by suicide of our Walnut 8th grade student on the previous Saturday
  - Services will be at Crossroads in Oakley on Saturday, February 23
  - Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team came in (15 members) on Tuesday to support students and staff
  - A robocall was made to all student families asking them to read an important email message regarding a member of our Walnut Hills family.
    - Students were able to share with their teachers if they needed to speak with a CISM member. Students were escorted to the conference room and then to a room to speak one-on-one or in a small group with a therapist.
    - CISM saw approximately 85 students on Tuesday and followed up with ~10 students on Wednesday.
    - We need to relay to teachers the resources we have available at school for them and for students
  - Coping mechanisms: coping for students and parents
    - Coping for parents:
      - Understand that everyone goes through the grieving process differently. Share this with your children and talk with them about their emotions.
      - Validate their feelings with active listening. Listen and repeat back what you heard them say as they opened up and shared their feelings.
      - Identify what they are in control of: (sleep, eating, daily tasks, etc...)
      - Get back into his or her daily routines – this should be done as the students are ready.
  - Moving on with postvention plan
  - Bring Change 2 Mind group is important to create an ongoing plan
  - Recommendations from Laura (her occupation is child psychologist and she operates a crisis team in another county): Need to share supports in place with students, staff and parents; many things were done last year, but many did not notice (e.g., panel, movie); we should continue with these type of activities that educate, provide support, and resources; we need to walk in the Walk Out of Darkness walk, AFSP in October at Sawyer Point.
    - We need to be intentional and have a single well-defined place for people to find all the resources that are available. Suggestions included:
      - Mental Health page on our website

- Highlight clubs with focus on mental health (e.g., Active Minds, We Dine Together, etc.)
  - A space for students to provide complaints (a locked box possibly in the restrooms to allow students the option to be discreet)
  - Visible supports readily available
  - Access points for mental health are set up throughout the district. We need to provide a list of locations to our families, and include agencies that accept Medicaid, insurance, and offer a sliding fee scale.
  - Laura reported that Minors age 14 and older can authorize 6 mental health sessions with a therapist on their own without parental permissions
- Nurse update
    - Currently looking for a full-time nurse.
    - Amendment 2.25: a full-time (7:30-2:30 M-F) nurse has been assigned to Walnut Hills
  - Enrollment
    - 1st of 3 registrations will take place on Thursday, February 21 at 7pm.
    - SCPP test #s are in and are down from previous years. Students must pass the SCPP test with a combined score of 140 to be eligible to register at Walnut Hills.
4. New business
- New optioning process
    - New online process, created by students in the Girls Who Code Club (2 juniors)
    - Previously, optioning was paper and pencil only, chasing teachers down for signatures and collecting a lot of paperwork. Now courses that need approval are identified in the Online Optioning program and lists of student names for optioned courses are generated and teachers choose based on the electronic list. This is a more streamlined process than before. Better communication where to locate students who have opted for a course.
5. Principal's Report
- ACT test took place today for all juniors
  - Eight swimmers are going to state tournament tomorrow
  - Boys and Girls are both going into Basketball Tournament
  - Luncheon provided for National Merit Finalists
  - Student Recognition will go out in a Press Release next week:
    - 22 National Merit Finalists
    - 10 students scored perfect on the ACT (2 juniors and 8 seniors)
    - 23 students scored 35 on the ACT
6. ILT Report
- ILT passed minimum make-up policy
  - Brian Sweeney created and shared academic calendar for 2019-2020 school year
  - Approval for .8 Assistant Principal from district
  - Optioning guidelines were discussed
7. Student Report
- Looking forward to Bring Change 2 Mind Club information and shared opportunities for our students
8. Community Report
- None
9. Parent Report
- Parents happy about decision to remove class rank when reported at The Associate meeting

- Walnut Fest was successful with 475 tickets sold (sold out)
  - Walnut Fest grossed ~\$59,000, net ~\$40,000
- Walnut Fest 2020 will be at Rhinegeist – teachers wondered if it could be at a larger venue as some were unable to get tickets because it sold out

10. Other

- 2018-2019 District wide LSDMC Meeting Schedule
  - Wednesday, 2/27/2019 6-7:30pm
  - Wednesday, 4/24/2019 6-7:30pm
- Next WHHS LSDMC meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6pm or joint meeting with ILT Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 5pm
  - At this time we will most likely meet on Thursday, March 21 and not with ILT on Wednesday, March 20 (not yet approved by ILT and waiting to hear back from Lauren Woolley regarding who writes agenda for the joint meeting.)
  - May need to pick a different time altogether, as March 21 is the start of spring break

11. Adjournment 7:52 pm

- Motion for adjournment made by Ashley Morgan. Seconded by Adrian Cabrera.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Smitson