

**Walnut Hills High School**  
**Local Decision Making Committee Meeting**  
**December 19, 2019**  
**6:00PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Laura Stith Deck, John Chambers, Jessica Smitson, Ashley Morgan, Lisa Brokamp, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Brad Smith, Sylvia Nelson, Richard Graeter, Judy Neff, Matthew Eggers, Dillon Vorherr

**Guest:** Sofia Tollefson

**Not in attendance:** Rich Coleman, Terrance Poole

**1. Approval of November Minutes**

- Motion to approve R. Graeter, seconded by F. Bownas-Rayburn; all approve
- Laura Stith Deck asks for a motion to allow minutes to be posted within one week post meeting date instead of the current three day timeline, as three days has not allowed sufficient time
  - Motion to Move to have minutes posted within a week made by R. Graeter. Motion passes.

**2. Old Business**

**a. Distinguished grad letter to school community-reaction**

- Overall positive consensus from stakeholders.
- Joanie Kuethe sent email responses initially to Laura Stith Deck and John Chambers and then to the whole of LSDMC
- Feedback included:
  - Negative didn't move it to this year's class
  - Questions about the criteria we use to choose the Distinguished Scholar
  - Questions about the five consecutive years; important to have the whole continuum of the Walnut Hills experience
    - Will the committee reconsider?
- L. Stith Deck shared the committee will not reconsider this year, but in the future if there is a reason for the reconsideration the committee will meet to discuss and reconsider criteria
- We looked at it as a whole for the entire school, not as a personal decision

**b. Mental wellness at WHHS**

- Mental Health Meeting with parents was canceled. We will meet again in January.
- GCBH 3 to 2 in January; half of those students will be placed with remaining 2 therapists, the remaining half will need to be placed with an outside therapist.
  - GCBH will be interviewing for the 3rd position, but no definitive start date for new therapist 2000 postings for therapists in the state...with only 18 given applicants at any given moment. This is a hard position to fill...'Mental health degree positions are not highly paid positions.
    - To marriage and family therapy, social worker, counselor, psychologist.
    - No need for pupil services license (private practice)

**c. Exam exam - IOWA test update**

- 2 testing sessions (open: not CPS enrolled students)
  - October: 20 out of district met requirements and 40 in district met requirement
  - November: 55 out of district met requirements and 74 in district met requirement

- Currently 456 have met the requirements (in and out of district)
- 8% decrease in numbers than in past
- 400 students in January first retake session
- Retakes will be paper/pencil

### 3. New Business – Next LSDMC initiative (tabled until end of meeting)

#### 4. Principal's Report:

- District is planning meeting with Walnut Hills to review current building capacity (2400) vs. determining a realistic capacity (2700?) vs. current enrollment (3000+)
- Superintendent gave a report/proposal at latest board meeting:
  - Proposals given to the Board to vote on expansion:
    - Add 18 classrooms \$6.7 million
    - Add 10 classrooms \$4 million
      - WHHS currently has 27 teachers traveling on carts, sharing classrooms
  - Superintendent recommended to school board to change WHHS school hours to 8am-3pm
    - Concerns about sports, activities, and help nights that will require a later start and end time

#### 5. ILT Report:

- Mandatory Junior High Health credit (does not count for high school credit), motion did not pass, repropose to go back to departments for next ILT meeting
- Request for paraprofessional to support extended time testing for 504 students
- Student Success Center
  - 21 students of 483 7th graders failed one class (17 failed 1 class, 4 failed 2 or more classes)
  - Grant for Student Success Center is over at the end of the school year
- Idea for providing study sessions with upperclassmen to prepare for exams
  - Eagle Buddies, BCC, and SSC provided study strategies
- Latin requirement for 9th-12th graders (1 year)
- Pep Rally vote (bell 6 and 7)
- Piloting an Exeter Math class (problem based math class for Algebra)
- Double bell/sit in AP courses (voted down at December meeting)
- Schedule E discussion and creating a hard deadline for paperwork due date
- Exam exemption discussion (Mr. Sweeney back in January) setting consistent policy

#### 6. Student Report:

- A lot of concerts: choir, band, steelband
- Exam season
- Pep Rally: went well
  - DJ was good because the sound was much clearer than in years past
  - Step Team Step-off
- Basketball games: restrictions for students due to complaints and poor choices (MR. ELLISON)
  - The behavior is unacceptable, but the Nut House is a crowd that attends to cheer on our student athletes
  - Encouragement from LSDMC members for students to support Nut House and teams with positive behavior
- Grade matrix changed for this year. The Grade Matrix is staying the same for seniors (% 2020) this school year.

#### 7. Parent Report: none

**8. Community Report:**

- Happy Festivus
- Alumni Foundation funded a broadcast studio

**9. Other Business**

- a. 2019-2020 Districtwide LSDMC Meeting Schedule (6-7:30p - **Meetings are located at the CPS Education Center in the Mayerson Banquet Room – 2651 Burnet Avenue**
  - Wed 3/4/2020 – All current LSDMC members
  - Wed 4/22/2020 – All current LSDMC members
- b. LSDMC New initiative/topic to explore
  - Discuss ideas for expansion via needs assessment
  - Excused absences for those students who protest (non-public schools can define their own rules regarding absences.
  - Counselors not responding to emails/requests

**10.** Next meeting – Thursday February 13 at 6p

**11. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn R. Graeter, motion seconded by J. Smitson 7:34 pm; all approve