

Walnut Hills High School

Local Decision Making Committee Meeting

October 15, 2020

6:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: John Chambers, Richard Graeter, Jessica Smitson, Ashley Morgan, Lisa Brokamp, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Laura Stith Deck, Sylvia Nelson, Judy Neff, Monica Mitchell, Dillon Vorherr, Melanie Mitchell, Monica Mitchell

Not in attendance: Terrance Poole, Brad Smith

1. Call to order
2. Approval of September Minutes as amended
 - Motion to approve Richard Graeter, seconded by Jessica Smitson
3. LSDMC Roster - please confirm your information
4. Principal's report
 - BOE decision for Walnut to stay remote
 - Remote learning is going as well as can be. Parents say it is not the most ideal situation, but versus the alternative, 4 days of instruction vs 1-2 days of instruction is better.
 - Teachers also have positive feedback
 - District is planning on starting up the winter athletics season with no delays.
 - Students have been returning to other CPS schools; high schools report back week of October 19th
 - ILT discussion concerning the current Honors Program
 - Looking at current Honors structure: a la carte (select Honors course you'd like to take versus the three courses in the cohort).
 - Current program, keep it the same or dissolve the program
 - Looking for opportunities to evolve and get better; initial conversation phase
 - Look at 9th grade: three tiers (CP, AA, and Honors)
 - Experiences, such as the Chicago trip, would be more specific to a course.
 - Could allow for a more diverse population of students.
5. ILT Report
 - Tabled until next month. Brad Smith not in attendance.
6. Student Report
 - Most complaints are teachers using the full 90 minutes, whereas the ILT message was that they are to use 60 of the 90 minutes
 - Wednesday classes is a nice break

- Homecoming Games is going to be virtual
 - Eagle Buddies are trying to get 7th and 8th graders to be involved
 - Eagle Buddies should be starting in the next week
- Senior Scavenger Hunt around Cincinnati, send in pictures and submit through DM
- There a lot of ideas, but it's important to ensure 6ft social distancing
- Juniors have a couple of ideas for Prom, there is a plan that they are currently working on that is COVID safe, but it's hard to focus on inclusion this year

7. Parent Report

- In general, a lot of people are glad we are virtual, but others that want our kids back full time, but it's not going to be the same as it was pre-COVID.
- Messaging is important to convey that the school wants to be back in session, back to pre-COVID, but it is going to take time and we don't know how long that may be.
- Parents saying that they are asking questions, but not receiving answers
- What about Wednesdays? Parents are curious about the rule.
 - Wednesdays are required for teachers, but not for students. Teachers are to use Wednesday for a mental health and wellness check, help sessions, or can use it for instruction, but it is part of the 240 maximum minutes of learning experiences for the week.
- What can LSDMC do to support what is happening?
- Can we create a FAQ and post it on the website?
 - There is a lot of comparison with Walnut and other neighboring school districts (in session and/or live streaming) and why Walnut can't do the same?
 - Why can't kids be back in school for five days a week?
 - Top five questions about what we know: when are we coming back? and other talking points. Maybe a paragraph or two with explanation.
- Events: sports can meet in person and can practice and play, but what about clubs, organizations, and events? What is the extent of the approval process?
 - There are activities happening, yes virtual, but happening.
- Next week high school students are returning to schools. Once those students are in the building we can begin allowing events that are in person, as they are in the other district buildings.
 - Equity and access for transportation and students to participate in club meetings, organizational meetings, etc...

8. Community Report

- None

9. Other Business

- Distinguished Scholar - What does LSDMC need to do for this new role this year?
 - According to the letter sent out to families on December 19th, 2019, the Principal needs to create a committee and students are to be identified by February 2021.
- LSDMC Priority Initiatives for 2020-21
 - Courageous Conversations?
 1. Present in all 4 Indian Hill schools
 2. Parent Equity group and Student Equity group
 - Is there something we can do to have a parent/student equity group?
 - Cultural Competencies Presentation coming up on October 28
 1. First meeting is specifically for students to share their feelings and concerns with the world and with Walnut
 2. The meeting purpose is to collect information and to create additional follow up sessions to support our students and to potentially come up with a statement.
- Review of State Report card (if available)
 - There is a report card, but "grades" are blank
- Other new business:

10. Adjournment

11. Motion to adjourn Richard Graeter, seconded by John Chambers.
Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm