

Walnut Hills High School
Local Decision Making Committee Meeting
October 21, 2021
6:00 PM via Google Meet
Minutes

Attendees: Laura Stith Deck, John Chambers, Ashley Morgan, Jessica Smitson, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Cathy Reidy, Sylvia Nelson, Saundra Oprea, Louis Ke, Terrence Poole, Julia Berman, Brad Smith, Richard Graeter, Lisa Brokamp
Guest: Kathy Restle

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of September Minutes

- Meeting minutes approved

LSDMC Roster

- Reviewed and revised

LSDMC Training via CPS Board Policy 9142

- Composition
 - Three (3) parent members who are not employed by the District.
 - Sylvia Nelson, Saundra Oprea, Cathy Reidy
 - Three (3) licensed members - three (3) to be selected by the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers members.
 - Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Lisa Brokamp, Brad Smith
 - Three (3) staff representatives (non-CFT) - one (1) of whom shall be the principal; the other two (2) members shall be elected by the non-teaching staff in an election organized by their union representatives.
 - John Chambers, Ashley Morgan, Jessica Smitson
 - Two (2) but not more than three (3) students from grades 7-12 to be selected by the student body or designated by the student council.
 - Julia Berman, Louis Ke
 - Three (3) community representatives who are not employed by the District.
 - Laura Stith Deck, Richard Graeter, Terrence Poole
 - All committee members have a voting rights, including students
- Terms
 - 3 parents (cannot be an employee of CPS) (2 year, re-electable terms)
 - 3 teachers (2 year, re-electable terms)
 - 3 staff representatives (2 year, re-electable terms), 1 is the principal (unlimited)
 - 2, but not more than 3 students grades 7-12 (1 year term)
- Meetings

- 9 meetings a year
- Meeting date communication
 - School Calendar
 - Newsletters
- Responsibilities and Priorities
 - Motion by Sandra Oprea to unstrike #4 and #20 (information on CLC) on the District By-Laws modified for WHHS; seconded by Francesca Bownas-Rayburn
 - Motion carries

Review LSDMC 2021 End of Year results

WHHS LSDMC 2021-22 Meeting Dates with suggested topics

- September (moved to October): LSDMC committee training, State Report Card results
- September through March: Academic Topics (3rd Grade Reading Guarantee, attendance and mobility, maintaining and recruiting students, AIR tests, end of quarter exams, ACT pre and final, On Track for Graduation)
- December: School budget discussions
- February: OnePlan
- March: Positive School Culture and Behavior Supports
- May: LSDMC End-of-Year Evaluation

Principal's report

- Submit minutes for our last meeting to demonstrate our approval for the Alumni Association approval by LSDMC as our Lead Agency for our CLC
- First-quarter ended October 15
- Soccer playoff game tonight
- Friday night football game, senior night, playing Lebanon
- Recent Lock-in's
 - There has been an increase in the frequency of lock in's.
 - We have started communicating in realtime with parents, sending out robocalls and emails to notify parents of the lock in situation
 - We will continue to refine the communication process
- Update on the projects around the campus
 - still in conversation about the number of spaces, the aesthetics of the additions, placement, etc..
 - Cafeteria expansion, tennis court enclosure, and academic addition
 - We anticipate lost parking spaces
- Boogie Bash tomorrow night, 7-8:30
- State Report Card (if available)
 - John will share at the next meeting
- Mental Health Issues

- Currently, we have a Mental Health Specialist, a School Psychologist, School Social Worker, and 2 GCBH school based therapist
- School counselors have also been going into classrooms
 - Junior High Counselors have visited classrooms and seen 701 7th and 8th graders during the month of October
 - Focusing on WOOP, a goal setting acronym

ILT Report

- Adopted an exam schedule for the week of Dec. 13 (M-Th)
 - Monday bells 1 and 2 flipped, T 3-4, W 5-6, Th 7-8, F makeups and accommodations (extended time)
- MAP testing for 7th and 8th graders on October 13
 - ELA 10, Algebra, and Geometry
- Halloween Parade Schedule
 - October 29 for seniors
 - Shortened bells 1 and 2
- November 1 Senior Panoramic
- Math department proposed a course recommendation to be added to the curriculum
- PSAT for grades 9-11

Student Report

- Senior class report:
 - Homecoming last month went well
 - Popcorn fundraiser to help families struggling with food insecurity raised close to \$4000
 - In November will go to the grocery store and spend the popcorn money (\$4000) to buy groceries and give to those families
- Junior class report:
 - Movie Night in the auditorium, not as well attended as hoped, but would like to try it again
 - Ferris Bueller's Day Off
 - Chipotle Fundraiser for the grade last week
 - 9th and 10th graders: combined dance in the spring

Parent Report

- Mr. Chambers addressing the lock-ins and how that is reported in the news
 - Getting contacted that the situation is going on AT Walnut, not in the neighborhood
 - News reporters use WHHS as the location to bring attention to the situation, but also brings angst and misinformation
 - Social media is also a space where misinformation is shared, we as parents need to convey the message about what we know is happening

Community Report

- Funding from COVID relief is millions of dollars and will allow us to have the new academic addition, lunchroom expansion, and tennis courts enclosure
- The majority is CARES Act money, but anything needed additional will be raised through the Alumni Association

Other Business

Long-Range Plan and Strategic Directions presented by Kathy Restle

- Accreditation: a launchpad for school improvement, the personal trainer of schools, holds you accountable
 - Cognia
 - Series of name changes: North Central Association, AdvancEd, now Cognia
- Engagement team review February 16-18, 2022 (postponed from last year)
 - Cognia is doing remote evaluations this year, but we have requested an in-person evaluation
- Continuous Improvement Plan is our Long Range Plan, which needs to be endorsed by the LSDMC
 - We have a Continuous Improvement Committee that meets monthly.
 - What parts of the plan have we maximized our opportunities?
 - What areas do we still have opportunities to maximize?
 - You will see our current plan includes many statements that begin with "Continue..."
 - Learning, Curriculum, AP classes, Support Services, Marketing, etc...
 - We wanted to really focus on the next big transformational plans for our school, what is the next Big Idea?
 - Many ideas were provided and input from departments and committee members
 - The Long Range Plan has been approved by the ILT
 - Establish ourselves as a Regional Center for Innovative Practices
 - Provide AP Training at Walnut, using Walnut teachers to support the training
 - Community Learning Center
 - ESL Instruction, Technology Instruction, adult literacy

- Explore the scheduling and use instructional time to maximize the Walnut Hills High School experience
- Classical Education
 - Continue to be intentional in how programming and curricular connections relate to a global citizenship based on a foundation of timeless principles.
 - Students are equipped to engage in dialogue, conversational and presentational skills to communicate and participate in a global citizenship.
- Establishing annual priorities and goals
 - All members of the faculty are asked to participate
 - Next meeting November 10, 2021
- Motion to approve the Long Range Plan Ashley Morgan, seconded by Terrence Poole; motion carried
- Distinguished Scholar - Update from last school year. How did it go? Feedback? Anything for LSDMC to do?
 - This past year it was hard to put a new process in place when not all students were back on campus
 - We reached out to (Cum Laude eligible students)prior to Spring Break and had them fill out the application prior to the Cum Laude tapping, which notified some students earlier than others that they had achieved Cum Laude
 - It should be more smooth this year
 - The Distinguished Scholar for the class of 2021 was one of the top 10 students, but not the first student in the class
 - Sandra Oprea: Is it out of the question to add an additional speaker for those that are not at the top academically?
 - Terrence Poole: We need to hold fast to our current criteria for Distinguished Scholar for at least the next couple of years, but it's not out of the question to revisit the criteria in the future
 - John Chambers: We talked about this for a long while and decided that academic rigor and achievement was important for the Distinguished Scholar speaker
 - Julia Berman: Advocate to keep it academic-based
 - John Chambers: The senior class is a high-achieving group of students. The Distinguished Scholar is not the only speaker at graduation, but also the Student Congress President and Senior Class President, both nominated by their peers
- LSDMC Priority Initiatives for 2021-22
 - Tabled for November meeting
 - Sandra recommends Anti-Racism Committee

Other?

- 2021-22 remaining Meeting Dates - any conflicts with the school calendar?
 - 11/16/2021 (Tuesday)
 - 12/16/2021
 - 1/20/2022
 - 2/17/2022
 - 3/17/2022
 - 4/21/2022
 - 5/19/2022
- Adjournment: Motioned by John Chambers, Seconded by Cathy Reidy, Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm

