

**Walnut Hills High School**  
**Local Decision Making Committee Meeting**  
November 16, 2021  
6:00PM via Google Meet  
Minutes

**Attendees:** John Chambers, Laura Stith Deck, Jessica Smitson, Ashley Morgan, Lisa Brokamp, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Cathy Reidy, Sandra Oprea, Sylvia Nelson, Julia Berman, Louis Ke, David Whaley, Brad Smith

**Not in attendance:** Terrance Poole

**Guests:** Kathy Restle, Mike Strauss (c/o 82), Diane Brunzman, Duerk Zinn (c/o 82), Byron Hill (c/o 82), Judy Neff, Jessica Rothwell

- **Welcome and Introductions**
  - David Whaley, new community member, 7th grade parent
  - Are the teacher reps in the first or second year of their second term?
    - John will ask Shauna Murphy for clarification
- **Approval of October Minutes**
  - motion to accept Francesca Bownas-Rayburn
  - second Laura Stith Deck
  - Where are the minutes posted?
    - Online on the website and on the schoology page
      - Minutes need to be updated on the schoology page
- **Anti-racism Committee**
  - Presentation of Diversity Equity & Inclusion concept (Guest Speakers)
    - Kathy Restle, Mike Strauss (c/o 82), Diane Brunzman, Duerk Zinn (c/o 82), Byron Hill (c/o 82), David Whaley (c/o 82)
    - Working with administration: inclusion and diversity initiatives. CPS directive related to the anti-racism sub-committee of the LSDMC.
    - How can 40 students of the class of 82 get on a call and talk about the state of the world? Walnut is about the academics, but also the culture and diversity. After 6 years it outputs a graduate who is maybe a little bit more sensitive to the world and those things going on around us. We talked about equity and inclusion. There are other schools doing this both locally and nationally. They have charted their own paths as far as D&I, but clearly groundwork done to help us determine how this looks for Walnut Hills.
    - They decided, after conversations over the course of a year, they wanted to determine some sort of survey and then determine a way to figure out what is happening and how the students feel.
      - They thought a student-led council and an alumni council, which serves as a vehicle for alumni to engage, were needed.
    - Meeting set up for last month, to get students and administration involved.
    - Both the student and alumni councils will have similar vision and mission goals; focus on strategic initiatives, collaborative partnership with the administration where all students can fully realize their potential. Focusing on D&I as a core element.
    - Define goals (see presentation)
    - Hopes and Fears exercise; no restrictions work to gather emotions and thoughts of everyone in the room. We didn't have a chance to capture the key themes due to time constraints.
    - There is consistency between hopes (67) and fears (43)
      - Key hope and fear is action, this group is able to move forward in a positive and proactive way to address some of these key themes.
    - Post-meeting survey:
      - 82% want to be a founding member
    - Judy Neff is a guest speaker, started an initiative with a parent group.

- Started a parent DE&I group. In November 2020 she had 9 parents willing to be founding members. At the first meeting, we had 12 people and at the second meeting, we had 18 people.
    - Use courageous conversations to guide the conversation and meeting. Not sure what is going on right now. We had 4 alumni in the parent group: 82, 86, 92, 94.
    - The district has been working DE&I into the curriculum. The district purchased *Stamped* for every 8th grader in the district. English and SS teacher cohorts working together to teach cross-curricularly.
  - How prescriptive is the anti-racism committee for the district?
    - There are guidelines and goals, and there are specifics that work with each individual school
    - [The district directive for the group is broad, an ongoing site committee regarding anti-racism efforts.](#)
  - What about the parents and students not on LSDMC?
    - Laura expressed that the committee should include the groups that have representation on LSDMC - parents, students, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, community members (alums)
    - Maybe instead of a student group and an alumni group, we have a WHHS DE&I group and begin to show action.
    - What is the action plan?
      - Survey methodology, determine size and structure of the council, this is going to be a committee that changes and morphs over time.
      - Francesca motions to accept the current DE&I council, with various constituent groups, to be our anti-racism committee.
      - John seconded the motion with the following contingencies:
        - Use the parents we have identified
        - All the constituencies: alumni, parents, administration, staff, and students
          - Motion carries
- **Principal's report**
  - School in a pandemic
    - Lunches?
      - Out days: cafeteria and south field
      - In days: seniors in the arcade (and plaza), 7-8 eating in the junior high gym, and 9-11 are in the cafeteria
      - 46 minutes is too long for many of our students
    - Quarantine and close contact/non-close contact letters
      - Quarantine only if close contact outside of the school (in the community) and not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated (post 2 weeks of the second dose of vaccination) will quarantine for 10 days from last day of contact
      - Fully vaccinated does not need to quarantine unless he/she/they begins to show symptoms. At that point, with symptoms, the student will be presumed positive and will need to quarantine from the date of onset of symptoms.
      - Non-close contact letters are sent out with every positive case.
  - Mental Wellness at WHHS
    - 1N5 Speaker Series begins tomorrow night at 7pm.
      - Information on mental health issues (11/17)
      - How to help your child develop a healthy mindset (01/26)
      - How to talk to your child about healthy relationships (02/23)
      - Parenting the anxious child (03/23)
  - Enrollment
    - 2774, about 100 less than last year
    - Building has 2400 capacity

- Anticipate we will have a lot of 8th and 10th graders start at Walnut next year.
    - ~225 students through open enrollment
    - Space availability is determined by grade level, not overall enrollment
      - Self-imposed cap of 450 students
    - 2nd open entrance exam - 225 to test this Saturday, 175 at last month's open test session
  - State Report Card (if available)
    - No new state report card; WHHS report card on the ODE website is blank, as are all school report cards in the state
- **ILT Report**
  - Exam schedule passed for our new schedule
- **Student Report**
  - The first meeting of student congress Eagle Buddies meeting was last week, adopt a family again for all of student congress, canned food drive, raised \$3000 for families, selling senior t-shirts, clothing drive in December, movie this Friday
- **Parent Report**
  - Metro and accidents on campus
  - The environment is not conducive to teen drivers
  - There are no current Metro discussions happening at Walnut, but the district has a transportation committee and they are discussing better communication
  - Parent Association Members are interested in the anti-race committee
  - Safety around transportation on campus
  - Walnut Fest coming up on February 4, 2022
- **Community Report**
  - Nothing at this time
- **Other Business**
  - LSDMC Priority Initiatives for 2021-22
    - Table until December meeting
  - 2020-2021 Districtwide LSDMC Meeting Schedule (6-7:30p - **Meetings are via Google Meet during the pandemic. If pandemic ends, meetings are at the CPS Education Center (2651 Burnet Avenue) in the Mayerson Banquet Room**)
    - Wed 9/22/2021 - All current LSDMC members
    - Wed 11/17/2021 - All current LSDMC members
    - Wed 2/23/2022 - All current LSDMC members
    - Wed 4/20/2022 - All current LSDMC members
- **Other?**
- **2021-22 remaining Meeting Dates - any conflicts with School calendar?**
  - 12/16/2021
  - 1/20/2022
  - 2/17/2022
  - 3/17/2022
  - 4/21/2022
  - 5/19/2022
- **Adjournment**
  - Motion to adjourn the meeting 7:36pm John Chambers
  - Seconded Laura Stith Deck