

Walnut Hills High School (Parent) Association
February 3, 2021 via Google Meet

Voting Directors: Davis Griffin, Sally O'Callaghan, Pete Riddle, Tiffiney Helm, Ro Clark, Monica Mitchell, Debbie Elliott, Julie Smyth, Sean Kelley, Jason Berman, Sarah Hilton, Catherine Gavin,

Non-Voting Auxiliary Members: Amanda Adkins, Angela Robinson, Peg Reed, Evonne Morales, Kelly Leanza, Missi Kerschner, Olivia Ballard, Judy Neff, Lucinda Hurst

Ex Officio Members: John Chambers, Sam Gerwe-Perkins

Interested Other: Laura Broermann, Jessica Smithson, Julie Wijessooriya

Principal's report:

- Several New Student in-district online registration dates for those who take the test later in the process (February 2-5; February 15-19; March 15-19)
- Only registering 7th and 8th graders this year; registered 100 9th graders last year (too much); there is now a waiting list for 9-12 grade registration
- Honors Program
 - Faculty has voted to restructure Honors program primarily affecting rising 8th graders; move to a team approach; there will still be a 9 Honors cohort to finish out the program
 - Honors courses in English, Social Studies, and Science going forward; this change was always part of the long-range plan
 - Purpose of initial Honors program was to take high achieving students and set them on a path to AP classes; now the expectation is that ALL students take an AP course
 - More formal communication to come
- Return to school
 - Concern with reduction in instruction time
 - 6ft when we can; 3 feet when we must
 - Please refer to February 5 Eagle Flyer for specifics
 - Bandwidth for livestream service not economically feasible
 - Sam Gerwe Perkins – the district has handcuffed the teachers; decisions are made at the district level; CPS board determined not to treat Walnut differently
 - About 15 teachers have requested leave rather than return to in person learning (some until they get the second vaccine; others for health reasons); Sarah Hilton asked a great question – who is qualified to teach the classes of those teachers who don't return?
 - Parking passes? Details to come. All Seniors and Juniors will get one
 - Current enrollment 2822

- Amanda asked “what is the language to contact District leadership?”; John recommended talking about LOSS OF INSTRUCTION
 - Sarah Hilton said that (her daughter) Kate was interviewed by Madeline Mitchell (memitchell@cincinnati.gannett.com) at *The Enquirer* about instruction time to do an educational piece on Walnut and the reduction of instructional time
 - Sam GP said the school/teachers can’t speak to the press, but students can
 - John is truly concerned about loss of instructional time
 - Attendance is actually better year over year; especially 10-12 grade
- Walnut has lost about 60 kids; some of those kids enrolled in Walnut but maybe had no intention of actually attending Walnut (about 25 out of district who chose to stay in their district because it was offering in person instruction)

ILT:

- Honors Program changes
 - ILT spent much time thinking about this; communication will be coming out soon
 - Rational was more equity, more diversity; Davis asked how we’re going to measure the data to see if this changed worked
 - How will 9th grade Honors differ from AA? Sam GP – it’s just a matter of the teaming (at least in the English department)
 - Science is really in support of this change because it opens up more options for science-focused students
 - Will not be limited to “spots” but will be more fluid based on student population
- Other topics
 - All students are still expected to take the AP exam(s)
 - Catherine – still tapped for Cum Laude? Yes, students will be recognized for their hard work

Parent Equity Group (Judy Neff):

- First meeting February 9 at 7:00 via Zoom; please join us; Amanda to send invitation to all Association board members
- Guest speaker – Rosa Jason

12th Grade:

- Amanda Adkins – “At least they have Nerf Wars” 😊

Finance

- There is still money even without fundraisers as we have not distributed much yet

- Davis would love to find a way to support instruction time (Kahn Academy, guest speakers); Peg brought up that there are 158 teachers – the squeaky wheel gets the grease making it difficult to support individual teachers as it's impossible to be equitable
- Students will be cleaning desks at end of each class; cleaning desk shields after breakfast and lunch; Sam GP – “do we pass one spray bottle around?!”; teachers have to provide own masks; Amanda – at her school (Monroe Local) spray bottles work but they have reusable rags; GP said only one spray bottle per classroom and paper towels per district

Motion to approve the financials:

Sally O'Callaghan made the motion

Sean Kelley seconded

Approved

Motion to approve the minutes:

Sally made the motion

Sean seconded

Approved