Palo Alto High School Site Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 5th, 2020
3:30 P.M.-5 P.M.
Zoom

Note taker: Anna Itoi
Attendees:
- **Present**: Brent Kline, Lisa Stone, Kathy Bowers, Chris Kuszmaul, Kindel Launer, Hunter Rearden, Mary Ellen Bena, Kala Mehta, Dave Schaeffer, Anna Itoi, Unmesh Sahasrabuddhe (PTSA rep), Bennett Quo, Ayush Singh, Nysa Bhat (left meeting after student update), Bowman Wingard
- Also present from the community: Charu Gupta (PTSA president), Eric Olah (teacher leading WASC efforts), Arudati Parikh (student), Anisha Gandhi (student), Elizabeth Dougherty joined near the end of the meeting (parent/equity advocate)
- **Absent**: Sam Howles-Banerji, Prasanna Patel

3:32 pm: Call to order - Brent

3:33 pm: Open Forum - Charu Gupta, PTSA president, requested that there be an opportunity for teacher, parent, student and other community input prior to the district's rollout of the reopening plans. Brent responded that this is a decision at the district level rather than the site level.

3:34 pm: Review and Approve Minutes

- October 5, 2020 minutes approved by a unanimous vote.

3:36 pm: Student Updates
- Nysa gave a [presentation](#) based on an informal poll taken of approximately 100 Paly students. The key observations were that students strongly preferred any reopening plan that keeps teachers consistent. Most students she spoke with are concerned about returning back to school in January due to COVID risks and prefers the distance learning option but with less homework to avoid eye strain and stress.
- Bowman, the senior, said he personally prefers the hybrid model.
- Bennett and Ayush echoed the sentiments of the students in Nysa's survey, opting for consistency in teaching.

4:15 pm: Eric Olah gave the [WASC update](#). The following full discussion ensued:
- Dave: will the SPSA goals be completed before or after WASC goals are finalized? Brent responded: the SPSA goals for 2021 will be formed by the output generated from this WASC effort.

- Dave: the 2021 LCAP (now called LCP) also needs to be incorporated into the SPSA goals for 2021. How are we doing against the existing LCP and if there is an effort underway to do an LCAP for this school year? Brent: I will look into this.
- Unmesh: recalled that the site council talked last year about looking at the existing WASC and seeing how we did last year. Brent: there was a mid-cycle report (3 years ago).
- Kindel: the mid-cycle WASC visit will be folded into the current work we are doing. Eric noted that it is a starting point and questions the value this committee will get out of the mid-cycle report. Eric said that the main value is looking forward. But he also acknowledged that there will be some value in seeing where we were and where we didn't quite meet goals.
- Unmesh: thought the WASC report is to be evaluated every year. Olah: it is supposed to be done every year. Lindel: It changes its name but the functionality of the review occurs annually. Unmesh: how have we fared in the last 4-5 years, and how do we make sure the same thing doesn't happen? Brent: in mid cycle, there is a review. That was done 3 years ago. This visiting team will do a review of the last 3 years, and they will also do the review of what happened with the existing WASC. Unmesh: so where are we landing in terms of meeting the current WASC goals? Eric: I don't have a percentage. Dave: will the information be in the draft you will be reviewing? Eric: It is a work in progress right now. Unmesh: how do we know that we are making progress or not? Brent responded that the data will provide us with the information you are looking for. The report will show where we are based on the last 3 years. The structure of the report is that we are looking back at how we did and looking forward, what we will be doing based on what we learned. It is a multi-year process.
- Chris: I am hearing Unmesh asked what those things we can measure the numbers for and if so, what those things are. So we may be able to independently verify those numbers. As an engineer that is what I hear. I perceive a disconnect in terms of what you are after and what we are trying to provide you.
- Unmesh: how will we know we are meeting those goals? All I am looking for is whether we can get assurances where we are in meeting the current WASC goals. Or are we going to be surprised? Brent: we are almost done with the report so we should be able to provide those numbers as well at the next meeting.
- Eric: I am not interested in surprises either. We have a ton of data to back up what we do well and what we don't do well. We won't be hiding data under a rock. We will be putting it out there. We will be using that to put together a plan for where we are and where we are going.
- Unmesh: We saw in this presentation the process but the actual progress report.
- Olah: the report is in progress so this is all part of the process. I have no problem sharing the rough draft.
- Lindel: We are required to share with the site council where we are and what our progress has been to date. There won't be surprises and not things that are hidden. The visiting committee will be interested in making sure things are surfaced.

- Dave: one last comment -- we also have the SPSA for this year. It also has a list of actions that were taken for this year as well as what data will be taken to see what progress has been taken. Isn't this the site council's responsibility to make sure we are reviewing the progress on SPSA? Unmesh: site council can't pull data, but we need to review. At the next meeting, we need to pull data that is already out there. It is important to look at WASC data, but the SPSA data is different.
- After a full discussion, the council agreed to include in the next site council meeting agenda an update from Eric on where we are with the existing WASC report at the next site council meeting.

4:44 pm: Site Council Budget -- Lisa Stone
- Lisa briefly reported no new budget requests since the last site council meeting.

4:45 pm : Principal's Update -- [AVID Program Improvements](#) -- Brent
- AVID program is too small
- Only will flourish if there is a lot of support
- Population: HUR students -- a great program to bring some life back into
- Need some greater involvement from the entire campus so we can spread the entire responsibility to a greater number of people
- Will request to use site council funds to provide staff members to have professional responsibilities
- 100+ students currently in AVID
- One teacher is currently doing the bulk of the work-- looking to grow that
- Anna: how can I learn more about AVID? Brent: search internet.

4:55 pm: Equity Update -- Brent
- Met with a group of students - LatinX population
- Working with the counselor of the BRIDGE program. Data improved dramatically for our senior class. Have seen a lot of improvements. Partnering with Crystal. Starting slowly and methodically. Important to be sensitive and build on relationships.
- Anna: can the teachers weigh in on their experience with the AVID program? Any challenges we should be aware of? Do we have the right goals? Kindle (for AP Lang): the students are very intentional in the classes they take. I have a number of AVID students. I am able to work directly with them and their AVID teacher.
- Unmesh: is there anything we can learn from Kindel or Kathy to find out what can be done now? Kindle: AVID is specific with protocol and expectations.

5:02 pm: Adjournment
- Brent made a motion to adjourn
- Seconded by Bowman