

Palo Alto High School Site Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 7th, 2020
3:30 P.M.-5 P.M.
Zoom

Note taker: Kala Mehta

Agenda as set:

Start Time	Agenda Item
3:30pm	Refreshments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notetaker Sign-Ups
3:33pm	Call to Order
3:35pm	Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members of the community may address the Council on non-agenda items
3:50pm	Review and Approve November 2 2020 Meeting Minutes
3:55pm	Principal's Report Brent Kline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up from last meeting's action items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District plans for LCAP ○ AVID ● Progress Review on SPSA Goals (Goal 3 - Wellness) - Elizabeth Specter ● School Budget ● Site Council Budget ● Future Plans - School reopening
5:00pm	Adjournment Student

Attendees:

- **Present:** Brent Kline, Mary Ellen Bena, Kathy Bowers, Chris Kuszmaul, Kindel Launer, Kala Mehta, Dave Schaeffer, Anna Itoi, Unmesh Sahasrabuddhe (PTSA rep), Bennett Quo, Ayush Singh, Bowman Wingard, Sam Howles-Banerji, Prasanna Patel, Lisa Stone, Elizabeth Specter (presenting Wellness)
- Also present from the community: Charu Gupta (PTSA president), Usma Mihas, Lisa S., Christina Schmidt (PTAC president) Elizabeth Dougherty joined near the end of the meeting (parent/equity advocate), Medha Atla (PAUSD student board rep), Emma Lin, Johanna Seah, Rebecca Eisenberg
- **Absent:** Nysa Bhat, Hunter Rearden

3:33 pm: Call to order - Brent

Open Forum

- Medha Atla gave an update on the plan for the Monday schedule for spring 2021, having met with the Principal's student advisory committee. The decision was to use Mondays to hold fish bowls to enable more student-teacher engagement. Still working on the specifics.
- Charu Gupta gave an update on the PTSA's parent feedback survey. She is still reviewing the results, but she reported that there was a desire for more in-person contact to enhance a sense of connectivity. Also, parents requested more "grace" and understanding regarding workload, deadlines and grades. Specifically, she noted that it would be helpful to adjust grade expectations, giving students more opportunity to improve their grades due to the wellness and motivation challenges of distance learning. Parents also requested more 1:1 engagement and feedback between teachers and students. Also, parents are interested in more opportunities to continue learning without being on screen, as the screen presents distractions and also eye and back strain. A discussion ensued. Kathy Bowers noted that there has been a lot of work done by teachers to reduce stress, such as grading upon completion and not having finals. At the same time, she expressed concern that when she offered students an opportunity to work offline, often 28 out of 30 students do not utilize the time as instructed. Ms. Laudner also discussed challenges with students feeling the motivation to write. She talked about ways she has been able to address this challenge. Ms. Gupta also relayed a parent's request that student achievement awards, which had been dropped last spring, be reinstated. Brent said he'd look into it.

3:48 pm: Review and Approve Minutes

- November 6, 2020 minutes approved by a unanimous vote.

3:50pm: Student Updates

- Emma Lin asked that Paly re-instate a process for providing teacher feedback. Brent said he was unfamiliar with the specific survey she identified, but that he'd look into it. Joanna Sea seconded the request for teacher surveys.

4:10 pm: Elizabeth Spector gave the Wellness Update. Survey Wellness (n=1523). Please see [link](#) to the full presentation.

Marked shift in ways students referred to counselling, students are asking for support and wellness center visits have gone up in past years. Virtual support form. Then counselors reach back to them. Also have virtual wellness and calming rooms. There are clickable links in those 'rooms', virtually. Rooms have positive feedback. Counseling sessions via telehealth. They can have either zoom meetings or phones based on what students find. There are monthly themes. Events get a raffle prize. Schoology, guidance newsletter, sources of strength and ASB is how they reach out.

Follow up is to find out who is missing as well as have discussions (noting that many HUR students did not respond to the survey), see trends and groups of students and what might be

appropriate for targeted outreach. Maybe look at what is going well with some of the students who are thriving in the distance learning format. Ideally we would have a mental health baseline.

Discussion ensued:

- Anna Itoi- positive comment for having good data and honesty of what was presented. Would like continued conversation. Links to Charu's data from earlier in the meeting.
- Charu Gupta- I wonder if there is a way to query parents on the same questions?
 - In the news there is a mental health crisis for students; the queue for MH services is over 2 months long, so resources are scarce and there is a high need.
- Anna Itoi- how do you address sleep and engagement issues?
- ES- came up frequently, not sure if it is workload or organization? Important to maintain a sleep schedule need 8-10 hours when you can.
- Unmesh- how many need tier 2 or tier 3 support as compared to last year?
 - ES comparing apples to oranges because the referrals are no longer drop ins
 - Teacher referrals are up but the 'visits' are not
- Anna Itoi- what is the definition for referral? It is a definition for someone benefiting from ongoing survey
- Unmesh- what is the plan for reaching out to the HUR or other vulnerable students?
 - ES, no plan as of now but it is in the works
- Prasanna- students who were a subset who you reached out to them and they did not follow back, do you reach out to the parents/
 - ES, only do this if there is a safety concern. Reach out a number of times to the student directly 3 times. If we do this and there is no follow up we discuss as a team and then make a group decision on what to do for the student.
- Brent - Do you think it would be a good idea to have this survey again as the prior survey was run in October?
 - ES, yes I think it would be a good idea to do it again
- Brent- virtual wellness center and virtual calming room shout out (please supply links and I will post them here)
- Charu- if there is a way to push out resources to Palylink, please follow up with Charu
- Anna- if there is a way to involve parents, we would like to do that as partners in wellness

4:39 pm: Site Council Budget -- Lisa Stone

- No spending to Site council budget
- Lisa briefly reported no new budget requests since the last site council meeting.

4:39 pm: Principal's Update

Equity:

Equity is a very important word for different people. It is a process and it is important to have equitable experiences for all kids. Even on the wellness front, we must fill the gap. Being a very

challenging year, talking about re-opening plans. I don't know how many plans we've made but then the re-opening does not happen. There has been a lot of time spent working with COVID-19 and not having the ability to focus on the equity to the forefront.

- How have we created systems and protocols which perpetuate inequality
- Start back after winter break with staff on equity a full day
- Enid Lee, who lives in Santa Cruz, is an educator with an emphasis in equity and she will begin the conversation
- What's in our control in the classroom? In the building? Can we look at it and see what's working and what students have barriers to achieving their maximum?
- Interested in looking at everything, methodologically.
- How does it relate to WASC?
 - Data shows that we need to look at students who have not been able to access the same as others?
 - Programs that can be accessed
 - AVID can be made more substantial and more in depth to address these goals
 - Tie it back to budget
 - Can we bring Enid to address these things?
 - Resources for teachers to introduce?

Reopening plan:

May be late January or may be March? Met with Wendy Stratton, the principal of Gunn, together with 45 teachers to bring cohorts of students back who need more support. Brainstorming ideas. Are meeting again next week. We are reaching out to the students who identified wanting to do the hybrid model. Gunn/Paly had about 10% students who wanted this with more freshman than seniors opting for hybrid. Brent is meeting with individual students to see what those particular students are looking for. What are their needs for coming onto campus.

After the original list of hybrid, we will reach out to others.

What will it look like? Unclear

May be like the PAUSD+, but it will be rebranded

Ideally a teacher and a support person in the room to connect and be attentive

Listen to the 42 teachers who are interested in it

Also doing another survey possibly

Thinking about a live interaction to elicit ideas for building

Monday's are a separate issue. Please see Medha's comment.

Discussion ensued: Charu wants to know if there will be parents and or students will be re-surveyed?

Brent states there is no key deadline.

Anna - some kids may be unwell some who didn't choose hybrid may need the in person learning? Is there something we can do for them right away?

Brent- that is a conversation with Elizabeth and team

Christina- based on what we know re mental health, would you consider the PAUSD + population and building it into that like a tier 2? This is a group of students who need

wraparound services and see if this mechanism could be folded in? Made a positive comment about what Brent is doing.

Unmesh- thank you for taking a systemic view. Systems level needs to be approved.

WASC action plan next meeting

4:57 pm: Adjournment

- Anna made a motion to adjourn
- Seconded by Lisa