

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2015

Committee Members Present

Venetia Faulkenberg, Jeff Osterman, Leslie Kimery, Laura Samide, Lisa France, Cara Voorhorst, Dustin Sites, Ginger Davis, Christy Shepard, Sara Yambert, Leila Rostam, Darian Rostam, Kevin Rostam, Sharon Irk, Allison Osterburg, Mary Burkhart, Amy Maharas, Lori Taylor and Kris Kingery.

Minutes

The meeting began at 6:32 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2015, with Mrs. Venetia Faulkenberg welcoming everyone. The meeting began with sub-committee reports.

Mr. Kris Kingery opened with a recap of the Parent Night, held at the high school on January 20th. There was a large turnout of over 400 people in attendance. The feedback that Mr. Kingery received was positive, with a hope for continuing to offer the opportunity next year. Comments from present members who were in attendance were given.

Lisa France thought the night was a success. There is a need for parent support. Maybe we could have Dr. Jean Peterson come back as a speaker again. This would benefit a lot of parents. Other committee members agreed that it was very positive and that it seemed that the attendees were very engaged.

Mrs. Faulkenberg agreed that there was a lot of great information at the meeting. She also stated that the power points used that night are available for viewing on our high ability webpage.

It was noticed, however, that the elementary families were not as engaged in the evening, with the exception of the guidance and counseling session. Cara Voorhorst admitted that even though she was in attendance, it did seem that a majority of the evening was aimed at middle and high school aged students and their families. We need to make the evening adaptable to all families. It was also brought up that maybe we keep the Parent Night during the winter months, while each building host an evening more focused on the needs of the families of that school perhaps in either the fall or spring. Jeff Osterman added that the high school does have an AP Night in the fall. Ginger Davis mentioned that the middle schools have a combined meeting for high ability math students that are moving up to the high school each May. Jeff Osterman is the speaker for that evening. This meeting has been helpful for parents and

students who have a lot of questions regarding math options for students as they move forward in their high school career.

Venetia noted and asked the group if they felt strongly about hosting an annual parent night in the winter, as well as have individual buildings also host an event in either the spring or fall. All members felt that this would be a great opportunity to support our families. The question was asked if this might become redundant if all buildings were hosting a meeting, how do we keep a combined night fresh?

Mrs. Faulkenberg asked the group as a whole if they would like to set a goal for the 2015-16 school year to have a combined gathering night sponsored by Broad Based Planning Committee. In addition, she would recommend to building principals the Broad Based Planning Committee would like to see individual building nights as well. All were in agreement that this is the way our parent support could grow. This will remain as a goal of the committee.

Marketing the night was also discussed. The need remains for these nights to be marketed correctly. The idea was brought up that we could use SchoolMessenger possibly to send reminders to the parents of high ability students as the nights are planned. We are in the process of cleaning up PowerSchool and verifying that all high ability students are tagged correctly so this should be a viable marketing tool.

The Guidance and Counseling sub-committee spoke next. Ginger Davis commented that the survey was completed in the fall. A copy of this survey will go out to all members with the final copy of the minutes from this evening.

What was noted in the survey is that our teachers would like more resources to help our high ability students in the area of social and emotional growth. It was agreed by parents on the committee that it would be very beneficial for families to have more resources available to them. Another area of concern is that at some buildings the counselors are not as available, or visible, as in others. The duties of a counselor are also an area that the families may not understand. The stigma is that if a student is called down to the office to see their counselor usually means that they have a problem. Students hear a name being addressed by the teacher to go see their counselor and the rest of the students think that there might be a problem with that student. An awareness that the students are higher stressed when they sign up to see a counselor, and being called out via intercom may not be a confidential or private way to begin the relationship. Going to the counselor does have a certain negative image and we need to turn that around and make sure that they all see the counselor's office as a positive environment in which they can go to. Also, having the counselors more available on Back-to-School nights might help build relationships between the counselors and our families. A goal to continue building our guidance and counseling program was agreed upon.

The website committee spoke next. This committee is charged with the task of creating a user-friendly high ability webpage. Dustin Sites spoke on behalf of the committee. He shared that the site currently has all the information needed but the committee's task was to make it user-friendly. Research of neighboring school district webpages occurred. It was observed that some corporations have their documents in PDF format for copying. The goal is to make this page more accessible and not so overwhelming to visitors. This committee would like to continue working on this project next year. This goal was added to our Broad Based Planning Committee mission and goals for the 2015-16 school year.

Venetia commented we would continue with the goals that we had set for this year. She asked for other goals or ideas from the group for the 2015-16 school year. None were added. Venetia suggested we look at how we are sharing the work of the Broad Based Planning Committee group. Leslie Kimery suggested we begin to use Twitter as one possibility. An additional goal of adding Twitter, Facebook, etc. will be explored and developed.

Barb Marcotte will be contacting you in the near future to invite you to remain on the Broad Based Planning Committee for the 2015-16 school year. If you could let her know if you would like to continue on the Broad Based Planning Committee, that would be great. Also, if you would like to remain on your present committee, or perhaps become involved with a new committee, please indicate that as well. She thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to the group. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was dismissed at 7:34 p.m.