

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2018

Members in Attendance: Laura Samide, Amy Maharas and Sara Hunter.

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with a quick welcome from Sara. This meeting was scheduled to share thoughts on Parent Night. What went well, what can we improve upon?

Laura thought the guest speaker was “spot on” with her keynote address “The Five Headed Dragon: Threats to Giftedness”. We had an attendance number of 156 for this presentation. Sara commented that as a parent of a high ability student, this was very informative for her personally.

Regarding the Breakout Session that Laura hosted with other counselors “Mindfulness Mindset”, Laura noted that roughly 35 parents attended her session. Parents asked great questions, were very engaged in the session. Amy attended “The Gift of Self” presentation given by our guest speaker, Lisa Van Gemert. She believes we had roughly 35 parents attend this session as well.

The Student Panel is always a success. Parents need to see and hear from other students that they can be active in band, athletics, a group club, and still be leaders in their school with a full course of study. The room was full of appreciative parents.

Conversations and feedback after the sessions seemed positive. As for the feedback survey, we only had two responses, yet both were positive. One item we may want to consider in the future is to add more time for the sessions. The keynote address was to be an hour long, but we need to allot for extra time in case the session doesn't start right away or goes over. Luckily the fifteen minutes we built in for travel time was used for the overage. With the LGI rooms at AMS North just outside of the auditorium, we were fine. We may want to add more time to breakout sessions, as they all seemed to run out of time also. Sara shared emails from other members who were not able to attend tonight's meeting, but wanted to share their thoughts on the evening.

Sara mentioned that we need to thank AMS North for allowing us to host in their building. It turned out to be a perfect location and we should continue to host at North in the future. Communication on the location change can improve next year. Keeping members advised of any location/time change has to become a priority.

Amy shared that Lisa Van Gemert gave an afternoon session for high ability teachers in our district. This was well worth the time away from class for the high ability teachers who had signed up for the two-hour afternoon presentation.

Sara is going to send out another high ability newsletter and will insert the feedback link for parents who may have wanted to give feedback, but time has gotten away from them. Should she ask the parents for their input for another Parent Night? What about quarterly coffee meetings where parents can meet and discuss their student's needs?

Next year we should host a session on how parents can help their student pick the most meaningful courses to take in high school. There are so many honors and AP courses available, which path should

their child take? Matriculation for these students is a very important topic. Matt Shockley would be an asset to host this session.

Other areas we might look into would be to assist parents dealing with under-achieving high ability students. For parent support, maybe have panels of parents/teachers/counselors at a table for each building level, so parents can talk with other elementary high ability parents. This can alleviate some current issues/fears elementary parents may have.

What about our April meeting? The group felt that Parent Night was our focus for this year, and with Parent Night now behind us, do we need to host a meeting in April? The group felt that we can table that meeting and wait till the next school year to meet again. With that said, the April meeting is officially cancelled.

Sara thanked everyone for their dedication to the Broad Based Planning Committee. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.