Committee Members Present

Jeff Osterman, Leslie Kimery, Laura Samide, Lisa France, Diane Young, Greg Dana, Judy Harrison, Cara Voorhorst, Kathryn Ellis, Dustin Sites, Ginger Davis, Kathryn Dunphy, Christy Shepard, Sara Yambert, Kristen Isbell, Leila Rostam, Darian Rostam, Sharon Irk, Jenni Gullion, Allison Osterburg, Christina Rachfalski, Amy Maharas, Lyndsay Corya and Kris Kingery.

Minutes

The meeting began at 6:31 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2014. Mr. Kris Kingery welcomed everyone. The agenda was adjusted so that we could open with questions and comments first. No immediate questions were asked. Mr. Kingery asked if all of the sub-committee groups were involved with the upcoming parent workshop. There is a need to pick a date and firm up some of the plans for this evening to take place and be a success.

The high school principal, Mr. Matt Shockley, has graciously volunteered his time to be the keynote speaker. Mr. Shockley also opened up the high school for this event to take place. The initial idea is to host the keynote speaker with two breakout sessions afterwards. Let’s work together on how to structure these sessions. Maybe a panel of parents, students, teachers and administrators on appropriate topics for elementary as well as middle school groups for each session?

The idea was mentioned to also have a breakout session from a counseling perspective. Maybe to help high ability students cope with anxiety, transition, and other areas that seem to affect our students. This could also be helpful for non-high ability students as well.

Dates for the upcoming parent night were up for discussion. The high school auditorium is currently available on Tuesday, January 20; Wednesday, January 21; or Thursday, January 22, 2015. The group agreed that Tuesday, January 20, 2015 would be the best day to host our parent night. Thoughts turned to how long the meeting should be and time? The idea of two breakout sessions of twenty-five minutes each after the keynote address of 45 minutes was mentioned. Also a starting time of 6:30 p.m. seemed like the best time to begin.

Many large group discussions came about regarding how to market the evening. Should we invite all families or keep it limited to high ability students and their families? Currently we have 1,043 students tagged as high ability in grades 3-8 in our district. If we open this to all
families, are we doing a disservice to our mission? The idea was brought up to market our high ability families this year, as it is our first attempt at hosting a meeting of this scope. Different ideas for breakout sessions were discussed. Looking at possibly hosting counseling/guidance, elementary curriculum, and SpringBoard for middle school students. Having two of each session would allow parents to attend two of the three sessions, if desired.

Mr. Kingery suggested that we break into our sub-committee groups and work for the next 25 minutes on this topic. Let’s regroup at 7:25 p.m. and have a large group discussion regarding our parent night at that time.

The groups broke into sub-committee work at 7:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. the group came together with updated information to share. The technology group shared that they would like to get together with Rebecca Kalb and/or Jason Brames for ideas on updating the website. The guidance group shared that they worked on possible topics for a guidance session on Parent Night. Our last group also worked on Parent Night. Kris Kingery and Kristen Isbell will send out a rough draft for Parent Night to all committee members.

At our December 1st meeting, we will work on the following things: Plans for advertising the event, develop a Flyer, develop a map and Agenda for the Parent Night, develop a template for the breakout decisions, and explore an RSVP Invitation that allows parents to front load questions about high ability.

No additional questions or comments were made at this time. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room. The meeting was dismissed at 7:45 p.m.