

PALY HIGH SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

High Quality Teaching & Learning	Equity & Access	Wellness & Safety
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**Minutes - Approved
September 13th, 2021**

Attending:

Principal: Brent Kline
Staff Reps: Lisa Stone
Student Reps: Celina Lee, Saumya Kundu, Ayush Singh, Gabe Galper
Parent Reps: Nishita Kothary, Kala Metha, Emily North, Dave Sheaffer
Teacher Reps: Kathi Bowers, Samuel Howles-Banerji, Grace Park, Kindle Launer, Steve Marsheck
Visitors: none
Absent: Mary Ellen Bena

Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 4:02pm by Brent Klien.
Attendance was taken and new members were welcomed.
Some members had not received the agenda, so Dave Sheaffer took the action to distribute the agenda to all members after the meeting, and to make sure future agendas are emailed to members in advance.

Old Business

The minutes of the 5/17/2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

Open Forum

There were no visitors to address the Site Council during the Open Forum.

Constituency Reports

Parents - Nishita provided feedback regarding the new bell schedule and longer 90 minute classes. Some teachers are doing a good job focusing on a particular subject for 45 minutes, then taking a short stretch break before moving on to a final lesson. However, other teachers are just focusing on a single subject without any break in the middle for the full 90 minutes. Nishita noted that it is very challenging to stay focused for 90 minutes straight w/o a break and variation. Brent noted that everyone is still getting used to the new schedule and that he would look into the situation.

Students - Gabe Galper provided a detailed update on all the many ASB activities which have occurred since school resumed in August. This included three different orientations, first week activities, the outdoor dance, resumption of fall sports, clubs and club day, and much more. ASB is currently working on the plan for concessions at games. Other ASB feedback is that minorities are not properly covered by the History/current events curriculum at Paly. Gabe also pointed out a potential equity issue around the Math department's recommendation that students purchase their

own graphing calculator (typical cost = \$100). The Paly Math Instructional Lead is working on a request to purchase an additional 50 graphing calculators which can be provided to students in need. Dave also mentioned that Elizabeth Brimhall (Science IL) was looking into calculator needs for the science department, and that she would likely have a request for scientific calculators. Sam confirmed that Elizabeth is looking into this matter. Brent mentioned that these requests should be sent through the proper channels for budget approval.

Kick off items 2021-22

The site council discussed whether to have members bring snacks this year. Kathi requested a later starting time if the group decided not to bring water and snacks. The group decided to keep the 4 PM start time for meetings, and Brent agreed to provide water bottles and potentially a small snack at the next meeting. Therefore, Site Council members only need to sign up for note taking at this time.

Dave Sheaffer reviewed what the bylaws say about elections. It was discussed and decided that Paly would continue with Co-Chairs for the 2021-22 year. Members were elected as follows:

Brent Kline will continue as Co-Chair

Gabe Galper was elected as the other Co-Chair

Dave Sheaffer was elected Secretary

Principal's Report

Brent started his report by reflecting on how great it has been to get the school back to in person learning. He saw real excitement during virtually all of the back to school activities. He also commented how there is a lot of focus on “learning loss”, but that he also likes to reflect on the “learning gained” during this time. This includes learning about one’s self, new skills or hobbies that were developed, the ability to research a subject on your own, appreciation of friendships, etc.

Brent pointed out that last year we completed the school’s WASC review and subsequently completed a major update of the SPSA. Brent does not expect that the Site Council will be making major changes to the SPSA in 2021-22, but instead we will focus on tracking the school’s progress toward the four major goals of the SPSA. And even though it is only September, the school is already making progress towards implementing many of the actions in SPSA. Brent mentioned that he is looking forward to having teachers give updates on initiatives at future meetings. He mentioned the literacy initiative (Kindel) and math intervention initiatives.

Brent then provided a 15-20 minute training for new Site Council members. A copy of Brent’s slides will be added to the shared folder shortly. During Brent’s presentation, he gave an introduction to the Site Council’s purpose and roles. Including what it does and what it is not

supposed to do. SC monitors data on SPSA goals and our (Paly HS) progress towards meeting them, i.e. measuring school effectiveness.

During Brent's presentation, there were a couple of key discussions -

Site Council Budget - in the past the Site Council had a budget of approximately \$23K per year, however, this is no longer the case. Per Brent, these funds were rolled into the general fund by the district. This means that all actions in the SPSA will be implemented using monies from the general Paly budget. Kathi Bowers asked if we would be able to see these budgets, and Brent said that we would have this visibility. Kathi also mentioned two programs which the Site Council had helped fund in the past. This included teacher training and the morning program for students who arrive early due primarily to bus schedules. The morning program involved providing a tutor to work with these students who arrive early. Kindel pointed out that the PAUSD breakfast program only provides breakfast starting during brunch (1st break), and that it should really be provided before school, so that students have eaten before learning commences. There was general agreement that the Site Council should advocate for a change to the district policy.

Dave pointed out that when we approved the SPSA during the May 17th meeting, Christina Schmidt noted that SPED should be included back into SPSA goals. Brent said that we will look into doing that next year. Brent mentioned that he is managing SPED at Paly, and that he would take a look.

Adjournment

Next Site Council meeting is on Monday 10/11/2021 4:00-5:00 PM. This meeting will be in person at Paly.

Motioned/voted to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.