

Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes September 9, 2021

In attendance: Kirk Kolb, Susan Zottola, Trish Evens, Michele Napier, Ryan Thompson, Amy Wels, Audra Myerchin, Caitlin Aamli, Chelsea Daugherty, Daniel Burdis, Erica Ledesma, Jarita Irvin Jennifer McGowan, Kristin Ryerson, Lindsey Randall, Marielle Nelson, Sam Marsh

Guests: Mike Shunk, Natosha Savage

Absent: Jennifer McGowan

- Susan Zottola opened the meeting and welcomed the group.
- Trish Evens and Susan welcomed the new members and facilitated introductions.
- Superintendent Kirk Kolb shared how valuable the PAC is to both the District and the School Board. He also shared how amazing it has been to see the majority of our students start in-person the first day of school.
- Susan went over the roles and responsibilities of council members. She explained what the purpose of the council is and how the feedback from members is gathered to provide recommendations to the School Board.
- Trish advised the group that again this year we will be meeting via Zoom until the case counts go down enough to make it safe to resume in person meetings. Everyone was in agreement that there was not presently a need for a council chair or co-chair in the virtual setting. The group agreed to revisit this once we are able to start holding in person meetings again.
- Trish asked for members to look over May's meeting minutes.
 - Action item – May 2021 Minutes approved with the correction of a name spelling. Spelling was corrected and re-archived.
- Michele Napier and Ryan Thompson shared information on the Board approved new AP US History textbook *Fabric of a Nation*. They reviewed the reasons for adopting this into the Curriculum.
 - Action item – *Fabric of a Nation* textbook approved by a majority.
- Trisha reaffirmed that D7 teaches historical facts, and promotes critical thinking. The current curriculum addresses Racism and other areas of discrimination, but CRT is not a class or subject taught in our District.
- Guest Dr. Mike Shunk (Principal of Gladiola) shared that Gladiola is now a recognized High School. He shared that there are 5 new courses being offered at Gladiola: African American Studies, Web Design, Digital Media, Communications Careers, and Gardening. He emphasized that they are excited to be able to offer students high interest electives that will be project based and exploratory to increase engagement, learn soft skills, and create connections that will be beneficial to future career opportunities.
 - Action item – Gladiola Courses approved by a majority.
- Guest Natosha Savage (Principal of GP Flex) shared that GP Flex has met and exceeded enrollment expectations with 330 students currently registered and 18 on a wait list. She shared that there is a new curriculum for elementary students, which was changed in response to feedback from last year. The new elementary curriculum is Florida Virtual Schools (FLVS). She shared that it is more engaging and because it can be embedded in Canvas, it is much more customizable and has many reproducible elements for creating workbooks.
 - Action item - FLVS curriculum approved by a majority.
- Susan Zottola gave an update on 4th Grade Curriculum changes in response to Senate Bill 13. A panel of six 4th grade teachers reviewed the Oregon Standards and found that Oregon Studies Weekly (OSW) aligned completely with the Oregon Standards. The teacher group unanimously recommended that OSW Curriculum. 4th Grade focuses on Oregon, and OSW will replace textbooks that have been very outdated. Age appropriate material is provided on historical subject matter that could be considered controversial.
 - Action item- OSW was approved by a majority, but some reservations were shared by parent members. Their concerns were addressed.

- Trish explained that in 8th and 10th grades, lessons that meet the ODE requirements are being incorporated into the existing curriculum.
- Summer School Session updates were given for Elementary, Middle and High School levels. Specific feedback was shared on what went well, and what can be improved for next summer. Elementary classes were well attended and much was learned about how to improve for next year. Smoke cancellations were impactful and affected some of the most popular classes at the Middle School level. High School levels classes were largely credit retrieval classes, and the online classes were well attended. Recruitment for in person classes next year will be increased. 9th Grade Summer Bridge was a huge success and provided confidence to incoming freshman.
- Susan and Trish provided an update on reopening schools – Elementary school was reopened with a soft start to allow for engagement and relationship building between students, families and teachers. SMS started with CDL due to unavoidable construction delays, but NMS and HS started in person as scheduled. Tents have been set up on the GPHS campus to increase capacity to distance.
- Allen Dale, Highland and Riverside all have had new HVAC Systems installed.
- Parent volunteers are still not being allowed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but will be reevaluated on a month to month basis. All parent volunteers, chaperones, etc. will be required to follow the COVID-19 Protocols in place in order to interact with students.
- At this time, no one except staff and students are allowed into the Elementary buildings. Pick up and drop off times are especially stressful and present a safety challenge, so parent presence on campuses will be limited going forward.
- A suggestion was made by Chelsea to look into a parent representative for each class, to foster a sense of community and promote parent to parent interactions.
- Open Houses planned for in-person events are being switched to virtual sessions or postponed.
- Next PAC meeting is scheduled for October 7th, at 9:00 AM.
 - Agenda items planned-
 - Parent Square district communication system
 - Pregnancy Care Center