

PAC Meeting 12/17/14

Meeting called to order by Vice President Brenda Sunderland at 12:15. All parents introduced themselves.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to pass the minutes from the previous meeting.

Cassie Ubaldo and Dean Katie Laslovich introduced themselves and told those present about the school climate committee, a teacher group that was formed to brainstorm ideas in getting students connected with each other. Last year, students had group meetings with their homeroom teachers to develop new approaches to bully prevention. This year they decided to mix grade levels into groups to build relationships and a community among upper and lower classmen. Each group is approximately 16 students with 4 kids from each grade level. These meetings happen once a month during third period for 25 minutes. Although the meeting is facilitated by the teacher, there is freedom for students to discuss experiences and situations they face. Students will stay with this group and teacher all the way through high school replacing graduates with new freshmen each year.

In the first meeting, the students spent time getting to know each other. In the second meeting they wrote words on sticky notes to answer the question, "What is a Hawk?" The third meeting provided ideas to manage stress; some teachers used videos while others provided exercises.

There is some variation among groups, some do service projects, some have other small projects and others just meet and talk. What happens in the groups depends on the teacher and students in the group. One of the goals is for the students to build a relationship with the team teacher – another adult in the school that they can turn to in times of need. Overall goals are for students to get out of their comfort zone, find other interests, meet those outside of their friend circle, and feel empowered when they are a bystander in a situation.

So far, student feedback has been mixed. New students; however, are all really enjoying this group.

Our treasurer will have to step down early as her daughter is finishing school in January. If there is someone, preferably with an accounting degree, that would like to fill in for one semester, please consider.

The PAC still needs someone to consider being President next year and Vice President.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00

Next meeting is 1/15/15

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Harmon