

IPC - Advisory Subcommittee 3/29

Members: Tim Girzone, Tiffany Testa, Erin Robbins, Kristen Roy, Shaun Hastings, Jen Given, Lin Illingworth, Tom Solon, Kate Stoll, Jordan Brown, Justin Ballou, Lindsay D. Gr.11, Maryfei, Gr. 11, Tate, Grade 11

Facilitator: Tim Girzone

Note Taker: Erin Robbins

Process Observer:

- Introductions
 - New Staff
 - Student panel
- Review notes from last meeting
 - [IPC - Advisory Subcommittee 2/15](#)
- Takeaways from visits to Souhegan and Bedford High School
 - Staff
 - Kristen
 - We need something to connect us more as a school community
 - This would give us an opportunity to connect with students in a different (potentially non-academic) way
 - Tim
 - An element Souhegan had worth considering was on Mondays-Principal would hold a class meeting (1/per month) to discuss a variety of pertinent topics
 - Helps us to get out info without disrupting class/cavblock
 - Better communication with students
 - Student leadership opportunities (student council, etc.)
 - Advisories are assigned 'partner' or 'buddy' advisories when an advisor needs assistance, they can team up with another advisor for support
 - Tiffany
 - Advisor = Anchoring Adult (@Souhegan)
 - Lin
 - This is our real life spirit week- a quest to find spirit in feeling like this is our school! We do this through advisory & practicing skills that help students to feel like they are more connected
 - Students
 - Tate
 - GOAL: Build interpersonal relationships
 - Great opportunity to have an extra person in the building to check in with them & keep an eye on them academically
 - Souhegan
 - Loop every 2 years (not as bonded)
 - Bedford

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- Bonded better over 4 yrs (loop)
- Learned that they HAD to grow to (at a minimum) get along
- Maryfei
 - Loop is better to allow TIME to PUSH students to learn how to step out of your comfort zone and grow
 - CONNECTION & COMMUNICATION are so important - advisory helps us to practice this
 - This would help us feel a connection & excitement toward HB
 - Break from the academic day
 - Allows for better performance in classes if we know we have a break
- Lindsey
 - Bedford seemed like their model is a good fit for us
 - We need a block of the day where students don't feel "guilty" for just relaxing, taking a break, etc.

→ QUESTIONS:

- Tom S.
 - What challenges did Bedford & Souhegan talk about?
 - Some kids like classes, some don't. Some like advisory, some don't. Some wanted to change advisories
 - What if we have a 4 year looped advisory and the students are not making connections with that adult advisor?
 - How do we put it into our current schedule?
 - Tim → We could insert a short block into Mondays in our current schedule as discussed at last month's meeting, but beyond that we definitely need to look at a new schedule
 - Will this only be academic?
 - Tim → It may be a comfortable place to start, for the Monday only schedule. This would be Phase 1 (next year 22-23)
 - Phase 2 - We need to think about what this will look like in 5 years so we can begin to implement this. (This will depend on contract negotiations & schedule)
 - Professional Development for staff would be an essential component of a successful implementation
 - Tom → Where will this time for advisory come from (in our day)?
 - Tom → What about the community nay-sayers?
 - Tim - Other principals have expressed the need for ongoing defense of the time spent in advisory and revisiting benefits of maintaining the time in the schedule. This needs to have support from students & parents in order to be successful. Teacher/admin/school board support will not be enough for successful implementation.

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- Tiffany - Absolutely! But.... advisory has a FEEL & it is important to experience it
- Justin - this Monday advisory may turn into having my advisory members coming to me during my 3 cavblocks OR may make my life as a teacher/student easier (no longer having to chase students/hunt down teachers, more collaboration among students, etc)

TO DO:

- Ayer-Shirley High School- we need to visit. They are in their 3rd or 4th year of instituting advisory.
 - Campbell- possible Zoom call
 - Tom → We need to start to have a discussion about schedule, get Union filled in, ASAP
 - Instructional practices steering committee before the end of the year
 - Next Meeting: May 3rd 3-430 pm
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