

SCMinutes 2.12.13

1. Minutes were approved from January meeting.

II. Operation Business

Bond update discussion:

The district has been holding a number of information sessions related to a potential capital bond. Gresham high school will be hosting two information sessions on Wednesday, Feb 13. One will be for the staff at 4:30pm and the other will be open to the public at 7:00pm.

9th grade Committee Recommendations:

Discussion started about reasons why students struggle with the transition from middle school to high school. There is a perception that HS is going to be difficult for incoming 9th graders but student perception is that HS is not that difficult. Even though students may perceive that HS is less rigorous, only about 70% of students finish their 9th grade year on track to graduate.

Due to this, the 9th Grade Committee recommended that we move towards a House model with English and Science. Gresham middle schools are attempting to move all students into a house model. Might help HS feel smaller and students might feel more connected to HS. It was also noted that the move away from the 'honors' designation for 9th grade English and Science classes would make this model more feasible.

House model concerns: common prep essential for teachers; picking the right staff and making sure we mix students up well; how does this help with IB for all students. what about Math? adding third class makes it more of an alliance rather than a cohort; effort to limit the constrictions on the master schedule; electives will make this problematic; making more year long classes at the freshman year would make this more realistic; selection of teachers for this model will be critical; concern about how this will affect FTE; lets try to target students who are not getting support thru Avid or Step Up; what we do with Bridges will directly affect what happens with making this happen.

motion to make small classes about 75 students who are struggling academically in English and Science. This motion was tabled until the next Site Council meeting

Discussion will continue next SC. Motion to adjourn at 8:33 and approved. Next SC meeting on 2.26