

Site Council
8/22/12

Elections:

Tara Heiggelke was nominated for Site Council Chair. The nomination was seconded and carried unanimously.

Katrina Levin was nominated for Site Council Chair. The nomination was seconded and carried unanimously.

GHS Vision of Excellence:

John handed out a diagram that outlined the relationship between the major initiatives that we have in place at Gresham. We looked at the relationship between IB, the Common Core, AVID, and PBIS. One question that was raised was related to the role of staff in the graphic and how do we represent the support that staff provide. Accountability is also essential to the vision and is not necessarily captured in the diagram. The importance of the document is that it illustrates how we intend to help students as they move towards the rigorous standards that they need to meet. While the vision picture is general, we need more detail about what each item means and what it looks like in the classroom. It was also recommended that we add the College / Career Readiness Standards of the Common Core at the top of the graphic to highlight these specifically.

School Improvement:

The Education Compact was introduced as the new accountability measure. The council split up into small groups to evaluate the compact and choose targets for this upcoming year.

9th grade on track to graduate: 75% to 80%

What are we going to do to help our 9th grade students achieve this?

This is a larger issue that also needs to encompass the middle school as well. The movement to a 7-period day should have a positive effect as well.

Staff Development Plan Review:

We spend some time working through the staff development work plan. The late starts will focus on department related work using the format of data teams. We will continue to do walk-throughs and staff will be invited to participate as well. The walk-throughs will focus on writing, student engagement, and clear learning targets. Writing will continue as a focus especially as it relates to the Common Core State Standards. S&A days will focus on writing and work related to equity. Staff meetings will focus on PBIS and other business items. Staff meetings will take place once a month after school.

These work plans are intended to be working documents and will continue to change over the course of the year based on staff feedback and input.

Site Council Work Plan:

The Council looked through the work plan for the year and provided feedback. A suggestion was made to add another date on the work plan to address issues related to new course proposals. The Council also discussed attendance and new procedures related to issuing letters to parents of students who have chronic attendance issues. There was clear support for continued implementation of the Tardy policy that began last Spring. It was also recommended that we adjust the school policy related to tardiness to state that students who are more than ten minutes late will be considered absent.

Freshman Performance Data:

The Site Council had a chance to look at the data and then make some observations.

- Latino students had the greatest struggle related to academics.
- There were not large differences between attendance rates of different sub-groups.
- You have a greater chance of being chronically absent and not credit deficient if you are white.
- Almost 25% of the Freshman class was chronically absent.

A question was raised about how the middle school teachers would react to this data? Up to this point, middle school teachers have not been made aware of this data.

The Council also looked at Sophomore (11-12) data and made observations.

- Attendance gets worse, but “on track to graduate” goes up.

Next Steps

- Identify struggling students within an earlier time frame so that we can enroll these students in support systems.
- We should be looking at these data points at the 6-week and 12-week marks.
- We need to build a better understanding of the difference between assessment and grading.
- We need to look at ways to re-structure some of our FTE to provide supports for academic priority students.
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