

2011-2012 Site Council Retreat
August 25, 2011
Library 8:00 to 11:00 am

Established Working Norms:

- Assume and have good intentions
- Wear different lenses
- Active listening
- Speak your mind
- Equal voice

1. Welcome

- Introduction of new members
Members went around the table and introduced themselves.

2. Membership Roster Review

Members updated contact information

3. Site Council Chair Nominations and Voting

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to have Tara Hieggelke serve as the Chair of the Site Council. This motion was carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to have Mayra Gomez serve as the Vice Chair of the Site Council. This motion was carried unanimously.

4. District Initiative Review

- Read and discuss the six initiatives
- Discussion and observations
John reviewed the six district initiatives and took questions.

5. Site Council Focus Group

- June Meeting Review
The June meeting was reviewed. Part of the discussion was how to focus the efforts of the Site Council. One of the recommendations was to split the Site Council up into smaller teams to focus on work such as: Freshman transition, grading practices, writing, student resource manual, technology, professional development. These teams would meet during Site Council time to get work done.

At the June meeting, attendance was also discussed. Tara reviewed the attendance t the policy in the Site Council charter and talked about the procedure for absences. One the challenges was that some of the teachers are assigned classes during first period.

It was decided that Filter Group and Site Council would both begin at 7:15. Filter Group meets in the Principal's office and Site Council will meet in room 214.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to pay for subs, if needed, from the Site Council Standards funds. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Gresham High School Improvement Plan Review and Discussion

- What data does the Council want to focus on this year?
- How does the 90/90/90 article support our work?

John reviewed each of the six initiatives and how they relate to the work that will take place at GHS.

ACTIVE will continue to be a focus of classroom instruction and a new GHS walk-through tool has been developed to look at the implementation of ACTIVE strategies in the classroom.

We will continue to use technology such as Google docs, Moodle, and School Fusion in the classroom.

Work in supporting and sustaining the AVID program will continue.

IB scores from exams this past spring increased in comparison to prior years although we have fewer students pursuing the full IB diploma. It was recommended that we take a look at how we prepare students in grades 9 and 10 for IB classes. There was a general consensus that we are not adequately preparing our students for IB classes. We need to define what skills students should develop in grades 9 and 10 in order to be successful in the IB program. AVID or the pre-IB curriculum might be helpful resources.

Proficiency Learning and Data Teams are connected initiatives. Professional Learning Communities will be the focus of department work. This is facilitated through the development of common student assessments to identify effective teaching practices. This year, there will be a focus on non-fiction writing.

The admin team has developed a walk through tool that will focus on specific classroom strategies to improve student achievement. Data will be used to inform professional development activities.

There are a number of efforts underway to support students as they learn. We will continue the implementation of PBIS. This year, we will also be instituting a CARE team and an attendance team. The general goal is to increase student involvement in CTE, AVID, IB, and other programs to support college and career readiness.

A proposal was made to add Athletics & Activities as an area of focus under the heading of Supporting Learning Environments. The language for this can mirror SUN program.

Following the overview of the Plan on a Page, the discussion continued about what we need to do to support students in IB courses. It was proposed that this be the focus of one sub-group within the Site Council.

1. "No subject of study is more important than reading. . .all other intellectual powers depend on it." Do you agree?
Because you need that first

Writing is used in every profession

There are many cultures that do not have reading or writing, the key is the ability to argue and debate. Reading and writing are tools for debate.

At GHS, reading is the foundation.

Depends on the meaning of reading.

Reading has to be done in conjunction with writing.

2. Define and describe strategic reading.

Reading with a clear and strategic purpose.

Reading for purpose and meaning.

Looking for patterns.

Reading for a reason.

“ “

Reading with a tactical plan

3. Why is writing so important in terms of literacy?

If students can write about what they read, then they are learning.

Everything else depends on reading.

Until you attempt to write, our thoughts lack precision and clarity. Helps to refine our thoughts.

Helps to organize our thoughts.

“Connects the dots”

Facilitates higher order thinking.

A way of freezing our thinking

4. In what ways are students at your school encouraged to write?

Summarizing reading

Exit Slips

Bell-work activities

Cornell notes

Essays

Reflective writing

“How-to’s”

Technical writing

Journal entries

Assigned essays

Quickwrites

Writing for an audience

Sentence frames

Daily reading response

5. What are three actions that could take place right now in your school that would immediately change the face of writing instructional practices? What would teachers need to learn how to do? What would teachers need to believe about their students and writing in order to improve writing instruction?

Cornell notes across the school

Athletic teams / Activity groups reading articles of interest to them

Writing style guide - common expectations in all classrooms
Teachers need to believe that writing is important
Encourage students to write
Implement common strategies across departments
Site Council has made this an emphasis
Student resource guide
Teachers need to believe that students can write
Pre-writing strategies and scaffolding for students as they write
Provide an opportunity for student voice

7. Data Team Cycle

Tabled until next meeting

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:05. Motion was carried unanimously.