

Site Council Agenda
February 23, 2012
Room 214 7:30-9:00 AM

Established Working Norms

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

Refreshments: Susan (drinks), Chris S. (snacks)

Agenda

I. Operational Business (7:30)

1. Approve old minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. Motion seconded and carried.

II. Announcements (7:35)

1. Continuation of our Yellow Zone student Discussion

Data Presentations:

- a. IB: Pat and Ayesha

Pat presented a summary of the IB 5 year review. We looked at the numbers of students who elected to take the IB end of course assessments. This year, we have more students registered for the exams than we have ever had in the past. The number of IB full diploma candidates has fluctuated over time, but is generally between 20 and 30 students. IB student enrollment has been fairly steady at about 800 to 900 seats in IB courses. The demographic data for students in IB courses mirror the demographics of the high school as a whole. While we have students of all ethnicities in the IB courses, our minority students are as successful in these courses and generally speaking, the demographics of the IB diploma candidates does not mirror the demographics of GHS as a whole. There are about 300 students currently taking one or more IB courses. There were a couple of questions related to how a seven period day may impact IB. Students would still be able to meet the demands of the IB diploma withing a 7 period day, but these students would have fewer elective options.

- b. Options

Ric Bartha gave an overview of the options program. He noted that this was the first time he had presented to the Site Council about the program. Options has about 60 students. They continually add and drop students but the number of students stays at 60. Ric rarely turns students away for those who want to be involved. The program is designed to create a family style atmosphere. The goal of each class is to maintain a 92% attendance rate. Honor roll in Options is for students who earn a 2.0 and above. Grades are based on students making progress both in the Options class and also demonstrating progress in their academic classes. The core of the Options class are the life skills lessons that focus on helping students develop habits that will help them

be successful both in school and after graduation. The program utilizes a number of volunteers to help mentor and tutor the students. At the senior level, students complete a Life 101 class that is designed to prepare students for life after high school. A question was asked about how options would fare in a seven period model. Ric commented that this would allow him to reach more students, but this would significantly diminish the amount of time that the Options staff would have to help students.

c. Step Up (7:45): Kathleen and Advocates

Hanif and Kathleen presented data related to Step-up and the program at GHS. This year, the Step-up program is working with 40 9th grade students. 75% of the students are students of color. All most all of them are living in poverty and have been identified as “academic priority”. Students in Step-up are attending classes and the Step-up program at about 90%. Over time, students earning core credits has increased from 31% two years ago to 67% this last semester. On average, students in Step-up were engaged in an extra 165 hours of learning over the course of the first semester. A couple of things that seem to have been working are: additional time for learning, a focus on personalization, strong partnerships with families, strong partnerships with teachers, and program consistency. They want to continue to work on developing better relationships with teachers and families. In addition, as Step-up is a 9th grade only program, they spend time at the end of the 9th grade year developing a transition plan. This is still a challenge that the Step-up staff are continuing to try and address. At other sites, Step-up extends beyond the 9th grade, but GHS does not have the funding at this point to extend beyond what is currently offered.

d. AVID (8:00): Tim

Tim presented data on Avid. For Avid9 compared to total population of grade 9, tardies, attendance are consistent. Average gpa is higher in Avid9 (2.70). 85% (average) of students in Avid continue on to college. Avid students take 1.5 IB courses in 11/12. 67% of Avid students are on free, reduced lunch (compared to 42% for GHS). There was some disappointment expressed over the gpa being under a 3.0. Concern was expressed over how will Avid be affected with a move to a possible seven period day. Avid is funded thru Title II money. There was concern expressed over how Avid impacts other classes and class size. Avids real benefit is when the proven teaching strategies are implemented throughout the building. What is GHS's identity?

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05. Unfinished business was moved to next meeting.

e. Attendance (8:10): John

III. New Business (8:20)

1. SIP mid year check in:

What have we accomplished? What do we have left to accomplish?

2. Proposal: “Student in good standing” discussion

3. Meet in SC Groups

Writing

Technology

Freshman Focus

IB/Graduation Rate

Next SC Meeting: March 13th (this is a change due to the Budget Reduction Day) 7-8
Combined with department chair meeting (8-9)