Derry Township School District
Hershey High School

Meeting Minutes

BAT Meeting

Wednesday, January 3, 2024
8:17 A.M. – Zoom

Lindsey Schmidt (Chair)
High School Principal

- Laurie Wade (Co-Chair)
  HS Assistant Principal
- Greg Miller (Co-Chair)
  HS Assistant Principal

Present:

Staff: Lindsey Schmidt, Laurie Wade, Greg Miller, Jamie Bean, Monica Breiner, Brendan Hensel, Ashlee McCann

Parents: Angela Mullen, Archana Sehgal, Betsy Ingraham, Katherine English and Gulnaz Atabaeva.

Topics for Discussion: FID (Flexible Instructional Day), Keystones and Course Selection Overview.

Discussions:

1. Meeting opened at 8:10 A.M.; waiting to see if other parents that registered would join the Zoom meeting.
2. Meeting began at 8:17 A.M.
3. Ms. Schmidt opened the meeting by introducing HHS staff in attendance.
4. Ms. Schmidt asked the parents to introduce themselves as well as give the grade level of their student(s)
   a. Ms. Betsy Ingram introduced her shelf, she has Maddie in 12th grade and Meg in 9th grade.

b. Ms. Angela Mullen introduced herself, she has Kylie in 10th grade and Connor in 8th grade.
c. Ms. Sehgal introduced herself, she has Rohan in 10th grade.
d. Ms. English introduced herself, she has a 9th and a 11th grader.

5. Ms. Schmidt welcomed the parents in attendance to the first BAT Meeting of 2024. Hoping everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday.
6. Ms. Schmidt started the meeting mentioning that an email will be going out shortly with an outline of the next several weeks here at HHS.
    a. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that we have three short weeks in a row that all have funky schedules.
    b. Ms. Schmidt explained that this week is the most normal of the three with only having the different bell schedule today.
    c. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that next week our kids have keystone assessments which we will talk about that in a little bit with Ms. Wade.
        i. Ms. Schmidt that if your students do not have keystone exams they will be on a 2-hour delay schedule.
        ii. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that busses will run twice.
            1. Pick up once at the normal time
            2. Pick up once at the 2-hour delay time
        iii. Ms. Schmidt stated that Keystones will run from Monday January 8th until the 11th.
            1. Students are off on Friday the 12th. Staff will be here.
            2. Teachers and Students are both off on the 15th.
            3. 2-hour delay on the 16th.
        iv. Ms. Schmidt stated that Tuesday runs us into course selection which Mr. Miller will discuss.
7. Ms. Schmidt wanted to review a few things with everyone and talk about keystones and upcoming course selection process.
    a. Ms. Schmidt shared her screen for everyone to see the presentation
    b. Ms. Schmidt started off discussing FID Day (Flexible Instruction Day)
        i. Clarification and Information
            1. FID Day is our Flexible Instruction Day.
                a. Ms. Schmidt stated this term came out through COVID when the state of PA, after living through COVID allowed school districts to apply for these Flexible Instruction Days up to five a year. This takes the place of the traditional snow day.
                b. Ms. Schmidt stated that Ms. Winslow is very open with saying that no matter what Derry Township will honor the first official snow day as a snow day.
                    i. Ms. Schmidt stated that we will NOT have a Flexible Instruction Day if a snow day is called first.

ii. Days following that first snow day we will be following the Flexible Instruction Day.
    1. This will count as an official school day as we have been approved for 5 days for the year.
    2. Parents will be notified the same via the school updates if you signed up for them, WGAL or Radio. FID or Flexible Instruction Day.
        a. We have been approved for these days for the last few years but we have yet to call one.
    3. Each Student will log into zoom for the entirety of their school day and will bounce from period to period via zoom.
    4. Similar to Covid structure classes where they log into classes via zoom however a little different as it is just for a snow day and when the inclement weather passes they will be back in the classrooms.
    5. Attendance will be taken the same as it is taken in the building except for the following classes.
        a. Lunch
        b. Study Hall
        c. Flex Campus
        d. Any class that does not have a credit associated with it.
        e. Dual enrollment would be what the college has in place.
    6. They will follow the normal bell schedule unless a 2-hour delay and FID day is called.
        a. That might be to allow more time for family and students to prepare for the day.

8. Ms. Schmidt asked if there were any questions about FID Day
    a. No questions from parents
        i. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that if we do end up having a FID Day this year we take the opportunity to reflect and take feed back and make any necessary changes.
9. Ms. Schmidt introduced Ms. Wade so she could move into the next topic of Winter Keystones.

10. Ms. Wade stated that Winter Keystones start on Monday January 8th and that we will have a 2-hour delay on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week.
11. Ms. Wade mentioned that these are re-takes so any students that needed to re-take the keystones they are able to. Schedule as follows:
    a. Monday 1/8/24
        i. Algebra and Literature Module 1
    b. Tuesday 1/9/24
        i. Algebra and Literature Module 2
    c. Wednesday 1/10/24
        i. Biology Module 1
    d. Thursday 1/11/24
        i. Biology Module 2
12. Ms. Wade stated that this test administration is for students who may not have taken the tests last spring or students that may not have scored proficient or above.
13. Ms. Wade let everyone know that Keystones are a state requirement. Two years ago, the state came out with the graduation pathways. If you want to earn a high school diploma in the state of Pennsylvania students must enroll and participate in the Keystone exams.
14. Ms. Wade wanted to make sure everyone understands that these tests are very important and they measure our school.
15. Ms. Wade stated that our students are very well prepared, hardworking, smart kids and our teachers are teaching the material well.
16. Ms. Wade stated that she does not want students to be stressed out because this is just an opportunity to show what they have learned.
17. Ms. Wade stated that although the pathway requires all of them to take the exams we do have other pathways such as AP testing and additional options through the state.
18. Ms. Wade discussed the code of conduct that is published by the department of education.
    a. Do not Cheat
    b. Attend to the test
    c. Ms. Wade wanted to emphasize on one major rule which was that students MUST use a school issued calculator.
        i. Ms. Wade stated that there is a whole protocol that they go through to make sure the calculators are clear.
    d. Ms. Wade also discussed that students are not allowed to have any electronic devices inside the testing room.
        i. All electronics will be collected before the test.
            1. Students will be unavailable during their testing.
19. Ms. Wade asked if there were any questions.
    a. No questions from any of the parents.

20. Ms. Wade thanked everyone for their support and asked any parents that if they know anyone who is stressed out or nervous or just talk about the testing please have them reach out to Ms. Wade or email her. She would really like everyone to understand that the test is important they have set up conditions to help kids demonstrate their skills. We are very proud of the work they do.
21. Ms. Schmidt moved onto introducing Mr. Miller and Mr. Hensel and the next topic of Course Selection.
    a. Mr. Miller is going to review the course selection timeline
    b. Mr. Hensel is available to answer any questions pertaining to the start of course selection.
22. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that in February ahead of the course selection verifications going home to you there will be another BAT meeting to answer any questions you might have.
23. Mr. Miller spoke of the course selection timeline that was in the spreadsheet shared by Ms. Schmidt.
    a. Mr. Miller noted that one change from last year was that we are starting this a month earlier.
    b. Mr. Miller stated the change was for administration to get the schedules more set in stone before the end of the school year.
        i. Hoping to begin the year next year with very little loss of instruction time with students waiting for course changes or fixing mistakes that could possibly happen with scheduling.
    c. Mr. Miller stated that next Monday the High School counselors will be going to the Middle School the 8th grade social study classes to explain the scheduling process and get the 8th grade started on scheduling for high school.
    d. Mr. Miller stated the below for the timeline for course selections
        i. Beginning January 9th-19th we will have teacher recommendations
        ii. January 17th-19th during our community periods the departments will be explaining their electives and core subject areas to the students.
        iii. January 17th at 6pm will be the course selection night that will be done over zoom.
            1. Mr. Miller stated to his understanding that next week a letter will be sent out with the zoom information for that evening.
    e. Mr. Miller went over the dates that each grade will be scheduling as follows:
        i. 8th Graders
            1. January 22nd and 23rd.
        ii. 9th – 11th
            1. After that
        iii. Any students that missed
            1. January 30th and 31st

f. Mr. Miller stated that by February 16th they hope to have the course selection verifications out to parents and students.
    i. Mr. Miller stated that we have this plan but we are dealing with some technology issues so hopefully we will be able to keep the plan in place. We will communicate any adjustments if they need to be made.
g. Mr. Miller gave the floor to Mr. Hensel to add anything to what he has stated.
    i. Mr. Hensel stated that the presentation the counseling office provides is a general overview.
    ii. Mr. Hensel stated that they go over the following topics:
        1. Graduation Requirements
        2. Process in General
        3. Some steps that the students need to take
        4. An overall timeline
    iii. Mr. Hensel stated that it is not specific to a grade its just really current 8th-11th graders and general overview.
h. Mr. Miller asked if there were any questions about the timeline.
i. Ms. Schmidt asked if there were any questions of course selection in general.
    i. No questions by parents

24. Ms. Schmidt stated that the Educational Planning Guide which parents and students can find all the information about the courses that are offered will be available on January 8th.
    a. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that they are still tweaking dates and information and adding the new course that was just board approved. The HACC Accounting 2 course allows the students earn HACC credits while taking a course here at the High School.
        i. Ms. Schmidt stated that we started having a HACC course taught by Dr. Stine about two years ago and it has been fantastic.
        ii. Ms. Schmidt commented that we have had an increase in enrollment requests from students.
            1. Ms. Schmidt mentioned the fact that college can happen in the High School the students enjoy and parents are into it.
            2. Ms. Schmidt also mentioned that there is a discount for high school students to take a college course it is almost about half of the cost.
            3. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that there is a pre-requisite of Accounting 1 to take the Accounting 2 course.
25. Ms. Schmidt stated that if you have a student interested in accounting or business we do recommend that you take a look at the business tracks as we have a lot of offerings there.

26. Ms. Schmidt stated that culinary is staying at the High School and that those courses fill up very quickly.
    a. We offer Culinary 1 and 2.
27. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that one thing that typically gets missed is that internship program has a different timeline.
28. Ms. Schmidt stated that the internship program has a different timeline because there is an application process. Please make sure the students pay attention to the week of the 17th-19th as Ms. Smith will present during the community period.
29. Ms. Schmidt asked if there were any questions from the parents.
30. Ms. Sehgal stated that she had one question about course selection.
    a. She asked if a student wants to try and test out of a certain course what is the process for that in the High School? How do you get materials to study for a test that is in the summer?
31. Mr. Hensel answered by stating there will be a link in the EPG that is basically a registration form. Students will use this form to sign up and they can request a book.
32. Mr. Hensel stated that when the counseling office receives the book they will call the student down to get the book. He also stated that there is a curriculum overview for them to have.
33. Mr. Hensel stated that if they do take the test and pass there will be no record of them passing that class they will just advance on to the next course.
34. Ms. Sehgal asked for the explanation of the EPG.
35. Mr. Hensel stated that the EPG is the Educational Planning Guide and it is a fantastic digital document that has everything from our mission statement as a district, to graduation requirements, to individual course descriptions, pre-requisites if there are any and if they are NCAA approved.
36. Mr. Hensel stated that if any students have any problems or questions with that document they can come see them in the counseling office.
37. Mr. Hensel stated that registration will start next week.
38. Ms. Atabaella typed a question in the chat.
39. Ms. Schmidt read Ms. Atabella's question – Students who want to become medical workers where should they get advice for internships? Who Should they talk to?
40. Ms. Schmidt stated that students should talk with Ms. Smith is the internship director. She has deep connections in the medical field and her office is in the library in the career center. They can stop by there or email her.
41. Ms. Schmidt stated that she will be presenting on the community period the entire week of the 17th.
42. Ms. Schmidt stated that this can be a stressful time for both students and parents and to please reach out and ask the counselors and questions.
43. Ms. Schmidt stated that there will be information coming out about next month's BAT meeting in the next week.

Meeting dismissed at 8:40 A.M.

Minutes Prepared by: Ashlee McCann, Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director