

Parent Staff Association Meeting Minutes

11/10/2023 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Attendees: Mrs. Mullaugh, Mr. Rose, Rebecah Hoffman, Ashley Fortier, Shalu Sharma, Samantha Fredell, Heather Curtin, Kataline Gergo, Michelle Guzo, Kathleen Ravotti

- Call to Order - Heather Curtin motioned and Ashley Fortier seconded
- Guidance Counselors were in attention
 - Jen thanked the PSA for all that the team does
 - Jen provides an example day as a guidance counselor
 - The school does provide a guidance curriculum (Naviance) – they go into classrooms and do career intros
 - Provides top career clusters
 - Career day – parents (15) coming in to share as well as a representative from Beatty Tech
 - They talk with the kids about how some careers may not exist yet using examples from their own middle school years with the changes in technology
 - Naviance – parents can sign in and be granted a parent account
 - Can also explore colleges, including applying to colleges
 - The HS gets notified when colleges come
 - 8th grade
 - Holland Code personality test
 - Matches your personality with a specific type of career
 - Focused on transition to HS and also discuss Beatty Tech options; they start the discussion on credits as well as recommendations that may be needed for HS Honors classes as that begins as early as December
 - RAMS Way
 - 1 lesson per month
 - Officer Brad was last month's speaker
 - November children's grief awareness day
 - December – suicide prevention day
 - School wide kahoot, contests, name that tune
 - How do students reach us?
 - Jen moved office during period 1 so she can see the students during that time
 - Individual one on one meetings, Social Skills group, connecting ESL with one another through small group
 - 504 and IEP management
 - Michael discussed individual counseling
 - Emails from students or parents with struggles
 - Teachers refer for check ins
 - Always encouraging students to share with a parent or guardian
 - The two flip flop if gender preference (if a girl prefers to chat with Jen even though they are 8th or vice versa)

- RAMS way Tickets dropped off in guidance office so that students can have positive reasons to stop in their area
- Parent question: When do you decide to call a parent? Always when there is harm or threat, otherwise, ask if the student is okay with it because it is important to not break their trust
 - They don't want singled out
 - Their main job is to listen
- Parent question: What is the relationship to the school psychologist? Somewhat their manager, but not entirely
- Best jobs in the school – they don't manage the discipline, discipline falls into the principals' roll
- Parent question: How do you make sure to connect with the kids in the middle? They do monitor with the teachers. One specific way is RAMS Way – they run reporting to see which kids don't have as many RAMS Way tickets and encourage teachers to look at this too
- Parent comment: More encouragement of club participation would be great! The website for clubs may need updated
- Parent question: for PSA events, how can chaperones remind kids that rules still need followed without getting involved in discipline? More reminders and PSA has permission with chaperones to have engage the school staff
- Ms. Berezo came in at 10 a.m.
 - The MS has had a few incidents about race, sexuality, vulgar language, etc. Dr. Kristofic is going around to 8th grade classrooms; Ms. Berezo is engaging with the 7th grade classrooms to reinforce what is not acceptable and that now that they have been reminded and “know”, and now the consequences will be enforced
 - Lunch detention or in school suspension is primarily utilized
 - There is a no retaliation policy at the school
 - Parent question: He said/She said type situations? handful of witnesses confirm; All incidents are documented, even if a verbal warning is all that can result due to lack of witnesses/evidence
 - Dr. Kristofic wrote in the Friday Flash about pushing the positive referral form: random act of kindness or academic achievement
 - Postcard home and shout out on the announcements
 - Parent comment: shout outs may be a deterrent; some kids may not even want the positive call out; perhaps change to “a friend” received this honor/achievement instead of using their name
 - What is the consequences to the reaction: there is a no retaliation policy
- Approval of September minutes: Heather motion to approve; Michelle seconded
- Treasurer Report:
 - Vote on staff shirts – Tshirts (no dates, so are “timeless”): not budgeted; \$540 for all; Heather motioned to add budget line for them, 8 yes votes, null no votes
 - Parent question on ideas for other potential fundraisers – one potentially for Christmas rolls from a restaurant
- President's Report:
 - Activities concluded: Taylor Swift (not a fundraiser), Fall Festival (not a charged event), Diwali celebration (in the teacher's lounge today!)

- Upcoming Activities:
 - Dec 9 – Skate Night
 - Dec 15 – PJ Movie Night
 - Feb 23 – semi formal
- Suggestion: having something on fb to have family or students say what they are thankful for about the teachers, Ashley will post
- Small Gifting: pumpkins, art supplies, and soil donations
 - Teams could each ask for up to \$150
 - Shirts were voted on above
- Questions and Conclusion:
 - Parent question: usage of Venmo; PSA confirmed Venmo is being moved away from and Cheddar Up is being used
 - Heather motioned to end the meeting and Kathleen seconded
 - Next meeting is January 12