
Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 3:20 – 4:45 p.m. via zoom

Members in Attendance: Shana Katzman, Natalie Bitton, Joy Koo, Ben Cleaveland, Mary Krawczyk, J.C. Farr, Laura Keaton, McKenzie Holtzapple, Adrian McCory.

Guests in Attendance: Elaine Wilkinson, Karin Hatton, Arielle Lehmann, Laura Erickson, Abby Brooks

Call to Order: 3:20 pm by Shana Katzman

Members and guests shared their favorite Thanksgiving food and what they were planning on for the break.

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda: _____ motions to approve the agenda. _____ seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Approval of October 20, 2021 Minutes: Ben Cleaveland motions to approve the October 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Elaine Wilkinson seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Public Comment (2 mins per guest):

- Elaine Wilkinson reported that THF's goal was to raise \$100,000 by the end of the month and asked members to get the word out. The group celebrated all the great work that the Foundation has done including the upcoming 9th Grade Parent Walk 'n' talk with Principal Farr. She also shared that they were working on the Student Center remodel. Everyone voiced their thanks for all the support the THF provides
- Laura Erickson mentioned that she was glad to be a visitor to this month's Site Council meeting.
- Ben Cleaveland announced that Shakespeare's Women - directed by Ben and Julianna - will be playing Dec. 2nd through the 6th. There is a cast of 16 and they feature the greatest scenes of women in Shakespeare. Check it out!

Updates and discussion

Lead by Learning-Arielle Lehman spoke about the Lead by Learning (program w/Mill College). This program builds collaboration protocols between departments and focuses on public learning, expanding ideas of what data can be (beyond grades). We are now in year 2 of

the program. Year 1 started with 16 teachers and it's now grown to 21. We have now gone school-wide with those teachers leading meetings with the whole staff.

Successes:

- The feedback from cross curriculum meetings with staff has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Teachers like the collaboration with teachers outside their departments.

Challenges:

- The end goal is not a tangible product.
- Shifting culture changes

Public learning-1 speaker with an issue or topic speaks. In classroom listeners share what they're thinking as a way to nurture collaboration.

Counselors are also participating in this program. Karin Hatton spoke to the benefits of the program. Laura Erickson shared that she was in year 1 and found it especially beneficial during remote learning. She felt she got a lot out of the program. Ben Cleaveland concurred that the program was very helpful.

This program is sponsored by and paid for by Tam High Foundation.

Abby Brooks, ASB President, presented a slideshow hi-lighting the events put on by Leadership this year so far and events that are planned.

So far this year:

- Club Fair
- Homecoming Week (most spirit she's seen since she's been a student at Tam!)
- 2 rallies
- Freshmen elections
- Halloween Spirit Week with lunch events

Upcoming:

- Winter Formal. Tickets went on sale Wednesday, November 17th. The dance will be held on December 10th.
- The Tam Unity Mural is in the early stages. ASB is in process of getting student input.
- Stress Less Winter Wellness Week
- Student feedback form-getting a lot of good input from students.

Challenges:

- It's an audit year.
- Covid guidelines change frequently.
- Support from an exhausted staff.

Student feedback:

- Requests for more events
- Students are feeling overwhelmed/overworked with senior/college apps and tests in several classes coinciding.
- Bathrooms-overcrowding and vaping. Gender neutral bathrooms
- Lunch lines are long and students wants more vegetarian options

Adrian McCory mentioned that the middle Kaiser bathroom has been missing toilet paper and the soap dispensers vandalized.

J.C. responded to the bathroom situation by noting that it was challenging to keep supplies as they need to be re-ordered and it takes time to get new supplies.

Staff has been locking bathroom doors and students are now using passes when out of the classroom. This is to limit the number of students out of a classroom to 1 at a time.

Unfortunately there is not enough staff to monitor all of the campus as this is a challenging campus to supervise.

Staff and administrators will partner with Leadership to get the message out to improve behavior of students.

Joy Koo wondered that with some bathrooms closed thereby overcrowding others, could be use Port-a-potties on campus. J.C. responded that while this is a good idea, it is cost prohibitive and they are hard to maintain.

Abby reported that they are in the early stages of creating a Tam mural. Leadership is still working on ideas and they want to hear lots of voices. They are reaching out to students for feedback. Leadership believes this will add to the Tam community as a feeling of pride and of belonging.

Reports:

Principal Report:

J.C. commented that Abby had captured the essence of his start. The beginning of the year was a mixture of hi-lights and challenges. The student events were great but some behaviors have been challenging. The challenge is in finding the balance to improve student behavior while keeping in mind how stressed people are. There are still lingering effects from Covid. Admin sees the challenges but are trying to manage expectations and how to roll out changes.

We now have a Leadership program thanks to a THF grant. The D.O. will reinstate the Leadership program in 2022.

Teacher Report:

- Ben Cleaveland reported that there was enthusiastic response to cross department collaboration. One growth area would be to look at ways to find more meaningful

assessments. J.C. noted that Straight Out of Grover Street was fantastic. There was standing room only the night he attended.

- Mary Krawczyk shared that the Art Department has been cleaning out the art shed with PATH parents. The Winter Art Fair will be held in spring around Open Home. They are looking into have small, in-person art exhibits.

Student Report-

- Adrian told the group that students are excited for next week's break and for the Winter Formal. He also shared that most students are not liking the new bathroom passes. He feels they're important but students don't like them. He also said that most students are happy to be back on campus and that they feel teachers have been really understanding this year!
- McKenzie shared that most seniors are focused on college applications and are also looking forward to Thanksgiving break. Students are really liking the later start date and gave a shout out to the College & Career Center.

Classified Report-

- Laura reported that we have a new Library Assistant-Haj Yacoobali. She will be in the library M-T from 4:00-7:00 pm and Fridays 4:00-5:00.

Parent Report-

- Joy thanked the PTSA for the parent event and noted that it was nice to see J.C. at this community event.
- Natalie says she sees a real sense of school spirit at all events. She also gave kudos to Emi and the College & Career Center for offering great support. She also reported that many parents are commenting on the traffic congestion around school especially in the afternoon. How can we address that. J.C. responded that there is not much we can do except perhaps to keep promoting carpooling and riding bikes. Bike ridership is up this year.

Wrap up: Shana ended the meeting at 4:45. Happy Thanksgiving!

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.