

UPPER LAKE HIGH SCHOOL HOME OF THE MIGHTY COUGARS

SITE COUNCIL

MINUTES

August 27, 2024

Attendance:

Administration: Annie Pivniska Petrie (Principal, ULHS). Mike Smith (Principal ULMS)

Students: LoLe (Grade 10)

Teachers: Paul Holt (ULHS), Maia Duncan (ULHS), Kathleen O'Rourke (ULHS), Megan Verstoppen (ULMS)

Classified Staff: TBA

Parent/Guardians: Tara Suzor, Ashley Dooley, Suzanne Feeley (ULMS). Shauna LaBrash (ULMS)

Not Present: BaPo (10), Jaclyn Ley

The meeting was called to order by Ashley Dooley at 3:33 pm.

Ashley Introduced Everyone.

Review Meeting Norms (AEIOU) (Ashley Dooley)

- a. **A**sk questions
- b. **E**ngage fully
- c. **I**ntegrate new information
- d. **O**pen your minds to diverse views
- e. **U**tilize what you learned

Ashley Dooley reviewed the norms.

Review and Approve May 2024 Minutes

We reviewed the minutes. Tara motioned to approve the minutes with the change in the basketball court minutes. Kathleen seconded. All approved.

Public Input/Questions from Parents/Guardians

- Questions about not scheduling games during Fair Week.
- Questions about NYC clean up. After the first game there was a lot of trash and the Clover Valley gate was locked.
- Willow Tree branches are becoming a problem and increasing supervision.
- Question about a teacher with COVID.
- District Calendar question about Easter break.
- Question about Cougar Den pass. 8th Grade PTO did not purchase a Cougar Den pass.
- Restroom concerns. Vaping and smoking and not enough space.

Roles and Responsibility of ELAC

Dr. Petrie explained what the English Language Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is and asked if the Site Council would take on ELAC's roles and responsibilities. Tara made a motion to approve, Kathleen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

State of the School High School

Dr. Petrie provided the following updates:

- **Safety:** Ms. Toback shared an update on Student Services, including staffing and supervision. There was an extensive discussion about the use of vape and dab pens and the importance of addressing this issue as a community. Some next steps are being developed, with more information to come.
- **Academics:** College courses have begun. The 10th Grade Team, including Ms. O'Rourke, Mr. Sombs, and Mr. Bjur, is focused on improving teaching practices and establishing campus-wide learning supports and expectations. AVID training took place over the summer.
- **Activities:** Discussions about Senior Sweatshirts are upcoming. The goal is to keep the Senior Trip local. Homecoming will feature the theme "Upper Lake Through the Decades," with easily accessible dress-up options for students. Clubs are starting up as well.
- **Arts:** Updates were shared on Music, CTE Arts, Media, and Entertainment programs, including college-level theater classes.
- **Athletics:** There is an emphasis on developing student-athletes as leaders and learners, with a focus on good character. There are plans to have athletes start reading to elementary students, with a target group of 20 students.

State of the School Middle School

Mike Smith shared the following updates:

- **Safety:** Mike mentioned that there is an online curriculum available through the AVID classes via NFHS. The Middle School also has detectors in place. He emphasized the importance of supporting students in getting to class and noted that two additional teachers are now in place.
- **Academics:** Two new teachers have joined the team: one for 6th grade and one for 8th grade. Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Hensley started on Monday. The 7th grade team is working with an outside coach on classroom management strategies to prepare them for the next level. Progress charts are being implemented.
- **Arts:** The Yearbook for both ULHS and ULMS will allow students from each school to collaborate. The yearbook will be organized into the 4 A's.
- **Student Services:** Efforts are underway to develop instructional aide support at the Middle School.

-

Dr. Petrie shared the Back to School Night on September 11, 2024. Ashley told the group tonight is home soccer opener and next weekend is the Tyler Duncan Memorial Soccer Tournament.

Next meeting will be September 24, 2024.

Close

Tara motioned to adjourn the meeting
Paul seconded.
All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dr. Pivniska Petrie