Derry Township School District
Hershey High School

BAT Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 8:34 A.M. – Zoom

Lindsey Schmidt (Chair) - High School Principal
Laurie Wade (Co-Chair) - HS Assistant Principal
Greg Miller (Co-Chair) - HS Assistant Principal

Staff present: Lindsey Schmidt, Greg Miller, Laurie Wade and Ashlee McCann

Parents present: Angela Mullen, Chan Shen and Alicia Schulz

Topics: Course Selection Process and Timeline; Graduation Pathways

- The zoom meeting opened at 8:30 A.M. and began at 8:34 A.M.
- Ms. Schmidt introduced HHS staff in attendance, welcomed parents in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves as well as give the grade level of their student(s)
    a. Ms. Angela Mullen – Kylie, 11th grade and Connor, 9th grade
    b. Ms. Shen- Peter, 9th grade
    c. Ms. Schulz- Alexis, 11th grade and Michael, 9th grade
- Ms. Schmidt shared where parents can find Course Selection Information:
    a. Educational Planning Guide (EPG) and Course Selection Guide papers were emailed to parents and students.
        - They can be found on the DTSD website through the path below:
            1. Hershey High School
                a. Counseling Office
                    i. Course Selection
                        1. Link to the EPG
                            a. EPG provides descriptions, credit amounts, prerequisites, and grade level expectations for all courses.
        - Students were given a copy of their specific course selection guide pertinent to the grade they are currently in and the offerings for the next year.
- Ms. Schmidt stated that students participated in community periods last week to learn about course offerings and the selection process.
    a. Students heard from department heads who gave them information on new course offerings and elective offerings within their content areas.
    b. Counselors introduced the process of course selection and informed the students on how to prepare for their upcoming course selection.
- Parent questions about course selection
    - None
- Ms. Schmidt showed the next slide with the timeline for course selection listed below.

a. Teacher recommendations already completed.
    - Teachers have been speaking with students and making their recommendations.
        1. These recommendations are specific to courses that have perquisites and courses that are required.
            a. For Example:
                i. The English department meets with the students within their classes to talk about what they would be will to recommend is the highest level of a course that the student should take next year and then work with the student if that is the class they were thinking about taking.

b. Current 8th-grade students began course selection today.
c. Current 9th and 10th-grade students will select courses this Friday.
d. Counselors will zoom into English classes with instructions on how to use the Student View app.
e. Teachers, counselors, and administration will be available to assist students during two English class periods.
f. Parents will receive an email around February 2-7 with course verification information uploaded to the Student View and Parent View app.
    - This information reflects students' course requests for the next school year.
    - Parents should review these requests with their children and submit any changes to the counseling office.
g. The timeline is subject to change due to the weather, but the goal is to send emails by February 7th, potentially extending to the 8th or 9th if necessary.
h. The verification sheet lists the courses requested.
i. February through April, the administrative and counseling teams will work on creating the master schedule based on course requests.
j. The plan is to provide students with their schedules by the end of May, allowing for changes before the school year starts, which has proven successful in minimizing schedule disruptions at the beginning of the school year.

- Ms. Schmidt asked again if there were any questions about the material covered thus far.
    a. No Parent questions.
- Ms. Schmidt moved on to Graduation Pathways
    a. This is a state requirement that has been in effect however we are going to be bringing this up every year because it does have the potential to impact your child's ability to graduate from Derry Township School District.
    b. Explained that the state does require students to meet a pathway to officially graduate from high school and that is focused specifically on state assessments.
    c. The easiest way to fulfill this requirement is by achieving proficient scores on the Keystone Exams in Algebra I, Biology, and English 10.
        - If they are not proficient on those assessments, then there are several different options for a student to meet a pathway.
        - Keystone exam with a score of 1500 or greater, none of the three scores is below basic and they can earn this composite score where all three exams reach a certain total score of 4452 or greater.
        - For students scoring below basic or not meeting the 4452 pathway, three additional options exist for regular education students:
            1. CTE concentrator (industry-based credential, such as first aid certification),
            2. ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test

a. The ASVAB, while a military assessment, doesn't require military enlistment but provides alternative assessment scores and insights into students' strengths for college exploration.

3. Evidence based pathway is the last of the three options that is really for kids who just may not be solid test takers.
    a. Must meet multiple checkpoints along the way
        i. ACT work keys
        ii. Certain score on one specific subject area of the SAT exam
        iii. Completing a post-secondary course
            1. Dual enrollment
            2. High-level four-year college
        iv. NCAA requirements
        v. Division II requirements
4. Counselors and students are going to work closely to ensure that certain areas are met to not have a student not graduate.
    a. Expectation that students are doing some of these things in order to meet these pathways
    b. Students will support them in getting the information needed to complete these things however there is also a piece that the kids are going to have to be engaged in the work as well.
5. Students with IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) have an option that is determined through their actual individualized education plan.
    a. A conversation should be held in your IEP team meeting.

- Ms. Mullen asked
    a. If you pass your three keystones nothing has changed, you're just simply explaining without the wavier other ways somebody could pass. Is that correct?

Ms. Schmidt answered:

Yes Proficiency on the keystone is the easiest way to get this checked off. The waiver that you see on the document is what goes away. The state put the waiver out three years ago they provided an opportunity for every school district in the state to wave up to 5% of students and if we went over that we had to explain why.

We have had to wave students over the last three years and will be talking to the junior class about this because it impacts them the most.

We do have a lot of plans to support the students but we're going to need partnership with parents and community to be able to provide some of these opportunities and not have kids not graduate due to the state requirements.

- Ms. Schmidt asked if there were any questions about keystones
    - No Parent questions
- Ms. Schmidt asked if there are any questions that you have overall regarding core selection, keystones, pathways, anything in general?
    - No Questions
- Ms. Schulz
    - Did not have a question but wanted to thank Ms. Schmidt for having the BAT meetings and wished more parents would take advantage of this.

- Ms. Schmidt closed the meeting, thanking the parents for attending.

Meeting dismissed at 8:53 A.M.

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