



OUR MISSION IS STUDENT SUCCESS...ACADEMIC, ARTISTIC, AND HUMANISTIC

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SBPT Minutes – January 21, 2010

Present: L. Kasdin (faculty), T. Hawkins (faculty), S. Woodhams (faculty), E. Lamb (faculty), K. Walker (parent), K. Nicasro (administrator), J. Markman (administrator), M. Gamzon (faculty), N. Branca (faculty), J. Tillotson (faculty), J. Aspenleiter (administrator), B. Pacheco (Principal), E. Bond (faculty), P. Koch (parent), E. Francesco (parent)

Excused: K. Larsen (administrator), E. Rebholz (parent)

Guest: K. Bennett (parent)

1. October Minutes revised and approved.
2. Per Nija Branca, Shirley Dorsey will no longer be serving on the SBPT.
3. School Improvement Plan – Departments had an opportunity to meet and come up with goals. The Counseling Department page was missing. Nija will investigate. The SIP will change for the 2010/11 school year. The SIP was submitted in the fall but has yet to be reviewed. Many goals were set regarding regents and state assessments. After midterms, Nija will ask departments if they would like to give the team an update after they meet as a department to discuss progress. They will be asked to get back to us in time for our March meeting.
4. Attendance Policy – we have implemented a new initiative, Connect Ed. If students are not in school, the district has the capability of sending out robocalls each evening. This is done whether a student is out for a day or for certain periods. This may not be ideal for SOTA because of all our pullouts for performances etc. The attendance report runs at 5:30, the information is inputted and the calls go out at 7:00pm. Now, teachers can input attendance up until 9pm. Calls are also going to be made in the morning for students who do not show up for 1st period. This could be problematic as 1st period teachers would have to input attendance by 8:30am. Additionally, when substitutes are called in, all students for that substitute would be marked present for the day. There is a lot to consider. Joanne will be bringing this up again with faculty. We can begin this at any time. After a discussion with faculty and a survey, if the majority wants to implement this program, we can begin to use it immediately. Teachers would have to commit to inputting by 9:00am and by 5:00pm.
5. SBPT Funds Allocation – no one was turned down. Some requests were modified. Money has to be spent by April 15th.
6. District Homework Policy – Kelly mentioned that many teachers are feeling like the 10% homework policy is too lenient. It was also felt that the HW policy should be consistent among courses, not necessarily teacher generated. Or, the homework policy could be a school wide or department wide policy. It was decided to take a

survey and, eventually a vote, among faculty regarding this issue. Departments should discuss this within their departments. Nija will ask departments to do this at their 2/3/10 department meetings and then share with the SBPT their thoughts. Brenda suggested that the team set a guideline or make it a school wide policy. So, departments will weigh in, the faculty will vote, a written proposal will be brought back to the SBPT which will then vote amongst its members. Some things to consider: homework can increase success in school, it's important to get kids accustomed to doing homework and how much should homework count?

7. Principal's Update

- a. Field Trip Form revised. The health form only needs to be filled Out one time and then boxes can be checked for changes for subsequent field trips.
- b. Autonomous School issue – Brenda is gathering information and Thinking about applying. Some things to consider: teaching and learning, budget, staffing and scheduling. Her conversation with Mary Doyle indicated that we are, in many ways, already functioning as an autonomous school. Other things to think about: staffing ratio, ISS policy, recruitment, rolling admissions, testing, and teacher transfers,
Brenda would report directly to the superintendent. SBPT would function as it does now. Our contract would still be binding. Weighted student funding could be a problem because we have less need than other schools. We would need 80% buy-in from staff to move forward on this. Brenda is trying to create some guidelines and will gain input from staff. Basically, the intent would be to gain more control over things that we have lost control over such as the suspension policy. There is an informational meeting at Central Office on January 25, 2010 at 4:30pm. The application deadline is February 12, 2010. Once staff has weighed in, SBPT will discuss the issue again.

8. Elaine Francesco/PTSA mentioned the Titanic exhibit at the Memorial Art Gallery. There was money from No Child Left Behind that Sponsored students and parents to see the show. It has been a very Successful event so far.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35pm.

Next Meeting Date: February 11, 2010

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lisa Kasdin
Secretary, SBPT