

Scappoose High School

Site Council Minutes: Jan. 20, 2016

Present - Karen Kessi, Jim Jones, Alison Howell, Annette Pixley, Susie Erickson, Terra Hayes, Kerri LoPriore, Jeff Baker, Judy Reed, Sara Peterson, Jeff McDonald, Guest - Brad McKedy

Absent - Caitlyn Sparkman, Britany Phillips, Tina Gift

Approval of Dec. Minutes - Approved

Unfinished Business

Update: Dual Credit options:

JJ: NWP (Northwest Promise) v. Willamette Promise. WP has more options and is a proven product. Plan to focus on WP because they have been established longer than NWP. Many things undeveloped like flyers and website. Mr. Jupe is pushing to be involved in both, but JJ feels focusing on WP is better at this point. NWP might be a better option in the future due to the proximity of schools to Scappoose (PSU, PCC, etc.). PCC has softened their position on our teachers teaching the courses on-site. (Crowd is happy with these developments!)

KK: This is off agenda, but what is your opinion of the weighted GPA? Dual credit brings up thoughts like this...

JJ: I don't like that students will take classes just to get the extra point instead of actually learning and education. Some schools don't focus on it.

BM: It is here and isn't going to go away. Some colleges look down on Oregon schools based on cut hours etc. That is where the weighted GPA is a positive.

AP: Affordability of WP or NWP?

JJ: \$30 per year for as many credits as you want.

AP: Willamette seems to be state schools?

BM: There are some community colleges.

KK: Transferability of credit can be a problem in private schools, but still worth it for learning experience.

JR: Is there more information for students?

JJ: Counselors and Mr. Jupe are doing all they can to get us ready for spring forecasting. Trainings etc. We are the only school using EOU on this side of the mountains, so this new option should work better.

More on our School Improvement Plan (SIP) – relevant data, goals to date, etc.

JJ presented the SIP, see handout. SIP based on the data regarding our students who have not mastered the essential learning skills.

JJ: Students not meeting essential skills have been placed into a lab class. They decided to drop an elective to attend the class.

JMc: When are students identified?

JJ: Problem with identifying based on Junior testing means not being able to intervene until beginning of senior year. We are working on a universal screener to help identify those struggling students in 9th grade.

BMc: We are trying to be more systematic instead of playing catch-up. Using PSAT is not as specific as a screener can be. We are also able to set growth goals for all students, not just those who aren't meeting essential skills.

AP: Are you assessing every student every year, or once you pass you are out?

BMc: We will continue to assess in the 9/10, but more individual in the 11/12. Also a good method for SpEd. Other assessments available are not K-12, so this is another reason to buy into a product like MAP (universal screener). We can use this to help all of our students see growth to meet various academic goals.

SP: What is the business model?

BMc: Per student license

SP: In budget?

JJ: Money is available based on the credit recovery system we are using.

KK: So we will be able to track even the progress of high achievers.

BMc: Yes!

AP: Implementation?

JJ: Trying to get our 8th graders done this Spring, having our teachers run a trial.

KK: Training, support?

BMc: They are local and require training.

AP: Enough technology to handle it?

JJ: Always could use more, but yes.

KK: How long do you expect this to take from class time?

JJ: Relatively small amount of the school year, but it is important for teachers to know what they are dealing with in their classrooms.

KK: Another test? How can we communicate that this is important and necessary and what is the difference between the different tests, etc? Might be good to see how many class hours are spent taking different assessments at the different grade levels, just so we have that data...

JJ: If we are testing, we want relevant information that we can actually use. SBAC (Smarter Balanced) is not what we need for that.

JMc: National and complete method?

BMc: I have checked on many different methods; this is the best.

JJ: Waiting for responses from schools that I reached out to about the program to see what they've gained from using it...

Back to SIP

AP: So, some kids could be taking 3 labs?

JJ: Writing and reading are together, so 2 labs.

I would like to start working on the SIP for next year and give us time to do in-service over the summer. Looking at something to do for all students, not just those behind. Would like to have the Site Council combine with the SIP Team to come up with goals. If we started a new high school tomorrow, what would we keep? If we wouldn't keep it, then why are we keeping it now?

KK: I am hoping there will be more emphasis focused on Writing Across the Curriculum, quality and quantity.

JJ: Anita Archer will be coming to work with us on our Writing Across the Curriculum. We need to have someone with the knowledge come in from the outside.

JMc: The MAP tool should be able to help know where we need to make the changes.

JJ: We can administer multiple times to know where we are in different areas. If there is a magic bullet in education then it is Literacy. As Literacy improves, all other sections follow suit.

AP: How can we up the ante on preparing them for college? How can we expand what we are doing to include writing research papers? There is no exposure to that at SHS, even in the higher level courses.

JJ: We implement this SIP and then focus on what we are going to conquer next year.

Freshman Focus convo

JJ: We are looking into combining with counselors to bring Freshman Focus to help our students succeed.

AH: We are meeting during study hall to help students with study skills, etc.

New Business

Next year's schedule – how many periods, etc.

KK: Concerns that have emerged?

JJ: Feedback is that students are struggling to manage the 8 periods. Survey conducted last week of the teachers, and teachers want to see students every day with 60-70 minutes per period. They don't like the gap in off days. Straight 8 on Friday is problematic all around.

KL: Curriculum is going slowly because the every other day

JJ: We have many kids failing...more than we have had (teachers say). SIP Team meeting first topic was next year's schedule. People were open and honest. Feelings were passionate about how the process went in choosing this schedule, and Mr. Jupe will be here Friday to help answer questions of SIP Team group. I want staff, students, and community buy in and making the decision based on collaboration and research.

JMc: Wasn't initiation of A/B block based on Mr. Jupe's mandate?

JJ: He would like us to be on the semester schedule.

KK: Isn't part of it that they can't get the curriculum they need to be able to test fairly in spring after potentially being out of those classes for many months (when we were on trimesters)?

KK: Huge concern about not having all the info for AP classes too.

SP: Super frustrated that we said we weren't ready for this and it was implemented anyway.

AP: Jeff Mc kept asking the questions about how it was going to be evaluated and never got answers.

KK: We need to be sure that what is gained by doing this is more or less significant than what is lost.

SE: We need to realize that we are a small school and don't have 2000 students; we don't have to do what they do.

AP: My student will have a hard time giving up all the electives.

TH: Mine doesn't take all those classes and now has all hard classes; that may be why we are seeing the grades drop.

JJ: We are encouraging them to take some classes in all general areas, but some are AP. It does make it difficult.

JB: Daughter says, I can get most my stuff done as a junior. Why would I go for my senior year?

JJ: That is an issue. Banks has each student with a study hall; many schools have classes that allow kids to get caught up. I want our staff and students to be confident in our schedule and their success.

KK: I hate to see us take away the electives, especially if we have kids going into essential skills labs.

AP: Freshman socialization is important too.

KK: Have we given this schedule a fair shake?

JJ: None of the surveys show everyone is happy with this.

JMc: Have you surveyed the staff more than once?

JJ: Multiple, but focused most recently on how can staff feel successful?

SP: Our counseling staff is brand new and they are saying this is a problem even without having all the backstory.

TH: Like it's been said in the meeting before, if we built a new school, would we continue this? So if we aren't happy, let's try something else.

AP: You could tell that pro development wasn't actually going to happen and staff was not bought in.

SE: Rebecca has a schedule that has students working everyday with each teacher. Schedule has different times, some classes are longer and some are shorter. It looks amazing. Madras has a great schedule. 1 block, see kids 4 out of 5 days. There were some problems including prep time for teachers.

BM: That was for an alternative school. That's a different situation.

KL: I feel anxious about the grades...maybe I am always anxious about them!

SE: That is the best part of semesters, report cards only 2 times!