

Westhill High School School Governance Council
Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2017

In attendance:

- Faculty Members: Camille Figluizzi, Mark Marchesani, Chase Dunlap
- Parents & Community Members: Sue Boria, Doris Frattaroli, , David Greenberg, Liz Rubin, Rick Smeriglio, Patty Denham Travaglino
- Student members: Nicole Somerstein, Sam Greenberg

Not in attendance: Sandy Menendez-Aponte, Jennifer DiGiacomo

Parent University

- Initiative started in 2015-2016 school year to help parents think about challenges they may face in parenting teens
- Aims to help parents develop skills through offerings from content experts; parents could choose the content that was of interest to them
- It was held twice last year, once in the fall at WHS with 35 participants and once in the spring at Cloonan with 100+ participants
- Better attendance at Cloonan (session held there Thursday evening vs. Saturday morning at WHS; the pre-event marketing outreach was shared between WHS and Cloonan), with dinner and childcare on site
- This year, Chase would like to bring it back to WHS, to bring families into the school
- This year, the Department of Justice is available to do a presentation on addiction
- The Cloonan session was held last year on May 3; Chase suggests a Thursday night in late April / early May for this year
- The group suggested April 20 and April 27 as target dates; Chase will confirm which one is better
- Topics: keep surfing safely, resilient mindset as perennial topics
- Chase is asking SGC for assistance with marketing campaign to promote the event; food (donations or discounts), work with WPTSO to coordinate (they provided money for food last year), ideas, people in our networks with skill sets that may apply
- Suggested topics:
 - Mindfulness
 - digital citizenship
 - 21st century learning
 - The voice of the student “What I wish my parents knew” – for example, parental pressure about studying and grades and PowerSchool - specifically directed to parents of freshmen (or incoming freshmen); teaching parents how to use PowerSchool appropriately (not obsessively / helicopter parents) and empower your children to advocate for themselves
 - legal ramifications of children drinking at your home, etc. (Mark Sherman had done a session here a few years back along with school resource officer)
 - intro to preparing your children for college
- Other successful sessions held at prior Univesities:

- Mona Matri: Tutor Me SOS on Long Ridge – huge gains on ACT scores / best in nation
- Jim Sapia at Rippowam: teaching in 21st Century – nationally known for using tech in classroom
- First-person voice of a college student from Fairfield County who faced his addiction and now lives in a sober house
- A gentlemen from a Bridgeport agency who spoke about drug and alcohol use – what are the warning signs
- Navigating special education process
- Suggestion: SGC will form subcommittees (like we did for Freshmen Night) at our next meeting to tackle Parent University and provide Chase with the assistance he requested

February 7: Freshmen Orientation

- Last year we announced the Freshmen Night (late August 2016) at this orientation
- We will do it again this year – Camille will announce it at orientation
- Projected date for the Freshman Night: August 29 (orientation will be held on August 30)

NEASC Update

- Update on mission and vision: took our revisions to the steering committee and the staff
- On Wednesday, February 1, it will be voted on by the teachers, in their committees
- Final copy includes suggestions from all the constituencies
- Chase will email the final copy to SGC members

WPTSO Meeting Wednesday

- Superintendent Kim will speak
- Any parent who would like to submit a question may send it to WPTSO (to either Elicia Lang or Zoe Schwartz)
- College night for parents and juniors (as well as anyone else who would like to attend)

Topics for next meeting

- Camille and Chase will present data from the recent school survey

Seeking participation:

- Student participants still needed for SGC
- Looking for a parents to take on WPTSO newsletter

Next meeting: Monday, March 6 at 6:30 in the office conference room; snow date March 13