

SGC Minutes – January 14, 2014
6:15-7:30pm

Facilitator: General

Members in attendance

Admin: Camille Figluizzi

Community: Mara Hammerman

Parents: Wendy Lecker, Noemi Berkoff, Nancy Fahey, Julie Hollenberg, David Greenberg, Andy Sklover

Students: Jeff Kurzman

Teachers: Sheryl Berkley, Tom Pereira, Kate Tobin

Review of Freshman Repeater Data

- Second quarter closes this Friday – more info. will be coming once those grades are out, see if there is any improvement
- Freshman teaching teams are spending a lot of time discussing / wondering about what the interventions are that can be done NOW, and during the school-day
 - Most of the interventions currently in place – ALTA, Success Program – take place afterschool. Need during school ideas / strategies.
- Intervention classes in English, taught by AP 12 teachers – haven't worked out well this year?
- How is the Peer Mentoring (Seniors to Freshmen) program going? Thought to be going well

Presentation on Upcoming Bridge Program, from *Stamford Achieves*

- 60 students total will be involved, across all 3 high schools
 - Recognized that every freshman needs this, but want to start small to “do it right” and ramp up from there
- Make parents more aware of and taking advantage of the resources that ARE available
- Build (academic) confidence and raise expectations among participants
- Idea raised: might be possible for WHS to “steal” some of the ideas from the pilot and implement for more freshmen using school personnel and resources?
- Extended support structure throughout freshman year, and beyond freshman year
 - Social / emotional issues, and coping mechanisms
 - Study skills and resources
- Can't afford to wait and “miss another summer.” It won't be perfect, people may pick at it, but something needs to be done now – sense of urgency
- Plan for summer: Family welcome, right after the 2014 graduation
 - One week program, starting August 18th (off this year's schedule), from 10am to 3pm. Lunch served, enrichment opportunities

- throughout summer (caterer talking culinary biz during lunch, as an example)
- Location: off-site, non-SPS facility (more exciting, “newness”). Core classes will take place there
 - Also many visits to corporate sites for lunch / afternoons
 - Minimal seat time – move around, travel, experience new things
 - Curriculum: Organization, time management skills, overviews – HS schedule, impact of absences, programs / clubs / sports, being a student leader (many presentations by current students)
 - Utilize tools available on Naviance – planning, goals, learning style assessment
 - Just the Basics on everything (in the summer week) – touching on things like Financial Literacy, etc. (more in-depth “revisits” during the school-year), Anti-Bullying / Peer Pressure, etc.
 - There will be NO HW or formal assessment – as if you were auditing all the presentations, Learning-Annex style
 - Intro. all participants to their guidance counselor BEFORE the school-year starts
 - Tutoring option (off-site) and usage of Ferguson Library for technological resources
 - Tough Talk sessions – peers who’ve “been there” presenting the reality / consequences of doing or not doing
 - Recruitment:
 - Free and Reduced Lunch
 - Recommendation from MS Guidance / Principals
 - Targeting at “AVID-like” students = middle-of-the-road kid without real supports outside of, or in, school
 - Eventual Goals:
 - Expand to ALL 8th graders
 - Capture (video) the work this summer, for presentations

Subcommittee’s with TOR and Cloonan

- Cloonan and TOR have a plan to get together, haven’t yet because of snow
 - TOR was having an SGC meeting tonight, Cloonan on Thursday
- Parent and Teacher volunteers – Noemi Berkoff, Tom Pereira

Joint District Council Meeting Representation

- 2 Members needed for meeting on 2/10/14 at 6:30pm – Noemi Berkoff and David Greenberg volunteered

District Data Team Survey Review

- Asking for Feedback from SGC’s
- Issue with Survey from last year – only 59 families responded / were represented. How to get more involvement – do it at Open House?

- Poor Spanish translation last year – re-translated this year. But, asked: reliable translator this time?
- Email Sheryl Berkley any other suggestions / ideas
 - Why is there a “Neither” column? Useless.
 - Question about “is your child being prepared with 21st century skills” – too vague / means nothing
 - Can individual schools add their own questions?

Ideas for a Bridge Program

- Bring incoming MS students here for a tour (maybe in teams)
- 8th and 9th grade teachers doing common PD – maybe suggest at TOR and Cloonan SGCs?

**Next Meeting: Wednesday February 12th, 2013,
at 6:00pm – please note time change!!!**