

ILT Minutes
February 14, 2018

Present: Barringer, S., Bess, S., Brandicourt, A., Cabrera, A., Canter, R., Chambers, J., Daniels, S., Hart-Thompkins, J., Kontsis, G., Perdrix, M., Pfeiffer, D., Restle, K., Schneider, F., Smith, B., Smitson, J., Stewart, J., Tewell, A., Thomas, E., Wolfe, D.

Meeting started at 2:48 p.m.

Review & accept the minutes from January:

Tewell motioned to accept the January 2018 ILT Minutes. No discussion or revisions. Motion seconded by Smitson.

Motion passed: 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

Special Order of Business

None

Old Business:

Originator

Department feedback to LSDMC on developing a vision statement and revisiting the LRP:

Schneider: Math department approved allowing LSDMC representative to create a vision statement. Schneider researched vision statements and recommends a short statement, possibly in Latin, would be nice. Barringer: Library department agrees to have LSDMC write a vision statement. This was the agreed upon decision by the Social Studies department (Perdrix), English department (Wolfe), and Modern Foreign Language department (Hart-Thompkins). Pfeiffer: Science department would like to recommend inclusion of “prepare students to thrive outside of school,” and Thomas stated the Latin department is confused by the need of a revised vision statement.

Change requirements for seniors – take to departments to discuss: Wolfe/Sweeney

Perdrix states the Social Studies department has a running list of questions in need of clarification with regard to changing the requirements for seniors. Questions are: Will students’ eligibility for extracurricular activities or sports be affected? How will this affect the master teaching schedule? What will this do for the number of electives currently offered? What are the possible ramifications? Barringer states the Library department votes “no” to change requirements for seniors. Canter states the Fine Arts department agreed to change as long as seniors meet the state requirements for graduation. The English department (Wolfe), Science department (Pfeiffer), and Latin department (Thomas, E.) all agree to change the requirements for seniors as long as everyone is meeting state standards and hours required for graduation. Schneider states that the Math department questions the state requirements for graduation: are we rising to the minimum? Does a Walnut diploma represent just the state minimum requirements? Schneider sees Walnut students (including seniors) as rising higher than the state minimum, but agrees students should experience options that will complement their coursework. Other members worry about students’ mental status. Cabrera shares that Walnut Hills students are required to take five courses during their senior year. Other concerns are for those seniors who have limited courses to meet the graduation requirements and the expectation to be at school for one period a day. Brandicourt shares that the limited courses allow students to have experiences outside of the school building, but also add to their future endeavors. The student handbook currently states students “must take” maybe we need to change to “expected

to take” to allow for special circumstances that will fluctuate based on individual need. Chambers shares that this change in the handbook would need to be specific to seniors and not just students. Perdrix shares that there needs to be an understanding of what is “expected” with number of courses required. Hart-Thompkins states that students must have extenuating circumstances to receive override, but question is what is an “extenuating circumstance?” Restle and Chambers both agree an override can be granted with administrator approval. Chambers recommends to not change the verbiage in student handbook, but an administrator must approve as long as, we as a community, agree there are exceptions to all rules. Brandicourt inquired about changing the six course requirement to five courses thinking specifically about students who may need to work to raise money to go to college. Hart-Thompkins recommends three choices for students. Daniels shares we should have six courses required for students up to senior year where in which it would be a five course requirement. Students have only one senior year, but a whole life to work. Wolfe will ask Sweeney to come up with three options for waiving the five classes for seniors.

New Business:

Originator

Add 8th grade math class to course catalog due to change in district policy: Schneider

For the last five years all CPS students in 8th grade move on to take Algebra I. This year the district is offering 8th grade math, which has a course code, to the whole district, but is not required at Walnut Hills to implement. This is important because currently 25% of our 7th graders fail Pre-Algebra. We have 17 bells of Algebra I, which will put us at 12-13 bells and 4-5 bells of Math 8 for next year. Concerns may be that students will not have enough time to complete their math requirements or explore the math course offerings if they take math 8, but post Algebra II there are several math course offerings students can take for their fourth year of math, which is required for graduation. These are AP Statistics, Probability and Statistics, Pre-Calculus, Computer Science, and Engineering. The goal would be to cap enrollment in the 8th grade math course at 24-25 students. There would also be a teacher recommendation component. This additional course would target our Algebra I AIR scores and our Gifted scores on our Value-Added scores.

Chambers motioned to implement the new math 8 course at Walnut Hills. The motion was seconded by Wolfe.

Motion passed: 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

Treat academic competitions the same as athletic competitions, not subject to blackout dates:

Ligon / Pogoni

The proposal is to treat academic competitions like athletic competitions. Do athletic competitions count as a FT, no it is an excused absence if taking place during the school day. Does an academic competition count toward a department’s ten field trips per year. Athletic and academic competitions that are not scheduled by us are excused for school activity absences. If an event is scheduled by us them it should be treated like a field trip and blackout dates will apply. If a student is in a competition, but not representing Walnut Hills High School then it is an unexcused absence.

Motion is to take back to departments and bring back to vote at next meeting.

Feedback for discipline committee – dress code & study hall code of conduct:

Smith

Study hall code of conduct: bell 4 students are able to report to the library and sign in.

#5: *A student who uses the Study Hall period to make up work with a classroom teacher must present a note from the teacher to the Study Hall teacher. A student who abuses restroom privileges will have that privilege suspended. Only one student will be permitted to visit the restroom at a time.* If a teacher has to help students for an entire bell (for test or quiz) can we set up a Google Doc to track students’ location? Fine Arts department is okay with note or email if student is in another classroom. If the library is full, librarians will send students back to class. #8: *A student who is absent from Study Hall must bring the Study Hall teacher a note on the next day. Students who are absent may not go*

to the Library on the day they return until they have gotten their note signed by their Study Hall teacher. Do we need them to bring a note if it is coded in PowerSchool? Music department says no, we don't need a note.

Dress Code: The English department (Wolfe) not finished discussing the issue yet. Discipline committee can bring back final proposal for a vote. Classics department (Thomas) votes that the current dress code stays the same. We need to teach students to arrive looking like professional students, dressed appropriately. Brandicourt shares that it would be good for "shorts and mid thigh" verbiage to disappear in current dress code. Brandicourt says we need to focus on bigger issues. Science department (Pfeiffer) is still discussing. Library department (Barringer) requests no tube tops. Fine Arts department (Canter) is fine with the current dress code. Social Studies department (Perdrix) states there is no point to have a continued discussion. Bess states there are inconsistencies that need to be addressed. If these inconsistencies, meaning that acceptable dress is open to interpretation with each staff member, there is no issue. Restle asks for no midriffs. Stewart refers to the cheerleading uniforms and the midriff shown with those. Can students not wear the cheerleading uniforms?

Take back to departments for feedback from all departments at next ILT meeting in March.

Drop status policy – feedback from departments:

Stewart

Stewart proposes we create a uniform drop status policy to support uniform grading in all courses that could potentially provide drop status to students. Is a grade bump a good drop status policy?

Science department (Pfeiffer) shares that their AP teachers are against drop status because in the past those students who drop status become a disruption to the learning environment. Modern Foreign Language department (Hart-Thompkins) if a student in AP drops status student will move to the alternate course and at quarter the grade would be bumped 10%. English department (Wolfe) looks at it as more of a medical issue. ELA does not have an option to send to another class. Social Studies department (Perdrix) is concerned in drop status especially when it occurs. There needs to be a willingness to be on the same page with drops in APUSH and AP Econ. For these courses there is no other course to send students to if they drop status. Will drop status create an increase in AP course failures? Will this affect the quarter grades and will teachers be required to reduce the number of Fs? Cabrera shares that the current rule for drop status is to apply for it by first quarter midterm and counselor works with the teacher to create a plan to accommodate student to be successful. Maybe we need to look into new drop/add dates for courses.

Take back to departments to discuss at next ILT meeting in March.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06pm