

Present: J. Chambers, K. Restle, A. Morgan, J. Smitson, J. Stewart, S. Daniels, A. Byars, B. Smith, S. Barringer, H. Durbin, R. Harsh, E. LeBorgne, J. Hart-Thompkins, M. Perdrix, S. Pogoni, F. Schneider, B. Sweeney, S. Bramlage, M. Kessen, E. Thelen, T. Ligon

Meeting Start at 2:49

Reviewing and Accepting Minutes from 2/27

Motion to Accept Minutes

Motion Passes

Special Order of Business

- None

Old Business

Originator

PSAT Schedule

Sweeney

- All departments and teams were in favor with no feedback
- Motion to pass that junior leave after PSAT and seniors get a service day. As part of this, Chambers is checking with Mr. Miles to see if it will work.
- Perdrix and Thelen voiced concern that departments/teams need to have a chance to vote on it.
- Chambers just needs a framework to present to the district; not voting to approve the whole thing yet
- Need to make sure all bases are covered on what students say they're doing and that parents sign off on it
- Question raised of if these activities should be more specific or more general
- Specific activities mentioned in last meeting were forwarded to Chambers
- All other grades would have class as normal
- Motion for Chambers to be able to take this back to Miles with ILT approval
- Motion voted on: Motion Passes

Calendar for Next Year

Sweeney

- Suggestion to move Learning Team dates earlier
 - May not be in our control
- Parent conferences should be on Thursdays
- Motion: accept the calendar for next year as it was sent out
- Motion Voted On: Motion Passed

Team Field Trip Policy

Chambers

- Just for 7th grade teams
- Honors does it by each subject getting their own field trip they take, so 3 total for Honors
- Thelen's team discussed having 2 each for teams
- Perdrix: does this open the door to having too many field trips?
- Chambers: Also getting feedback that field trips are being too limited

- English's concern is that for one field trip (going to see a play) over 3 days, it counts as 3 field trips
- Schneider: Question raised on the value of the field trips and who is evaluating it?
 - We do currently complete evaluations
 - Also trusting teacher's judgement
- Chambers: Teaming based systems could all just have 3 possible field trips
- Motion that departments discuss the proposal that all team systems (7th grade and Honors) have 3 field trips each that do not count against departments
- Motion Voted On: Motion Passed (one opposed)

August Building PD Days

Gerth/Perdrix/Smith

- Concern raised from teachers that there be PD planned by departments to best help departments succeed
- With Safe Schools, they do a lot of mental health training; would it be possible to allow time to focus on this?
 - Could part of the day at the start of the school year be used for this?
 - Chambers: Safe Schools is NOT actual PD. Chambers gave time for this at the start of this year to give people a chance to finish it early
 - By January, 60 people hadn't even opened it.
 - Concern over shortchanging faculty who take the time to do it vs. people who didn't even bother opening it.
 - Sweeney: Could people be told to finish this and then print and submit the certificate?
 - Chambers: Or people could complete it on their own as is expected of them.
 - Schneider: Dislikes the idea of a PD for Safe Schools, especially if it doesn't involve colleagues working together
 - Stewart: We are also working on getting more people in to speak about mental health and take time to work on that
- Monday August 12 - Opening Day
- Tuesday August 13 - Building PD Day (ILT Decides this)
- Wednesday August 14 - PBIS and Dept of Student Services
- Thursday August 15 - District Day focus on Curriculum
- Friday August 16 - Teachers work in classrooms
- Disciplines adopting new materials
 - Training will take up a PD day and all four Learning Team days
 - Sweeney's concerns over how much time is dedicated to adoption of materials that don't really apply to other
- Gerth: The ILT is supposed to choose what the focus is, but the district can provide suggestions
- Schneider: We are just starting to get legs under the vertical teaming, so there is concern that it is going to be halted before it can even really start.
- Major concern over the differences in what the district is saying vs what the union is saying

- Gerth will look into clarifying with the union on what the final word is
- Gerth: The goal is to have something in place before leaving for summer
- H-T: Suggestion to bring back information on what department needs might be
- Perdrix: Concerns over how applicable district materials are to here.
 - Chambers: District is going to need intense justification of why we are separating
 - Sweeney: Can we work on this all as a school or as a group? Can help people accomplish more
- Departments and teams are going to discuss what is needed in professional development and how to improve for next year
 - Vertical teaming
 - Other ideas

Follow Up to Mental Health Survey

Morgan

- Morgan did not place this on agenda, so there is no follow up yet
- Sweeney: Concerns that there is
- Perdrix: Teachers like Noland are surveying students, giving feedback, and continue evaluating what can be done to help mental health
 - Not necessarily inspired by these meetings, but the topic is pushing forward
- Stewart: Common thread of feedback is possibility of alternate bell schedule
 - Has worked with Cotton and Gordon in this
 - Can bring ideas or a proposal if interested
 - Smith will place
- April 2nd: Morgan is meeting with Nancy Miller again to discuss feedback after not enough students originally answered the survey; will help determine what research-based strategy is best for our school
- Bring Change to Mind and Eagle Buddies are starting up this year as well
- Restle: These items are also ones that could align with the long range plan and form a vision
- LeBorgne: More worthwhile to gather together for PD and talking about mental health and stress than to just do it in front of a computer
- Kessen: Students from BCTM have given feedback on classes and how to tweak work to better help students from a mental health perspective; seventh grade teams have also discussed ways to work together better to help
- Byars: Parent support is there and if there is a way they can help a big effort, they would be willing to help if they're given defined ways to help
- Morgan: Possible plan to help send out more newsletters or information on departments
- H-T: Concern raised over how much homework is given over breaks
 - Is it really a break if you're working?
 - Durbin: Even at college level, they are not releasing work over break
- Thelen: Concerns raised over mental health for staff too; needs to be addressed
 - Morgan and Smitson: Working on it. Just attended a PD on it.
- Just a discussion for now

Ethnic Studies AA Proposal

Perdrix

- Reviewed proposal for making Ethnic Studies a AA course
- Major benefit is that it allows students to learn history through a lens other than a Eurocentric, Western one
- Proposal is that it is awarded AA status
- English and Bramlage and Kessen's teams are on board
- Harsh: Are they doing one big project each quarter or semester?
 - Also science is happy to see the change
 - Owens: Yes, there are several projects and the angle depends on the lens. There are individual college-level analyses, group presentations, big focus on collaboration
- Baringer: Are they reading things outside of class? Scholarly journals? Etc?
 - Owens: Provides all materials, including scholarly journals, so that they have a chance to stay focused on the topic and to talk about what is going on when they read heavy material
 - Students do research, but it is material around the central text
- Cabrera: Concerns over diminishing number of CP courses as we make more AA
 - Owens: Concerns over the idea that having a European class and a gendered class as AA but not wanting an ethnic one as AA sends a message that it diminishes it
 - Perdrix: This class is already at this level and operating here
 - Cabrera: If everything is AA, what is AA now?
 - CP is still an advanced class, it is not meant to be remedial
 - Owens: But students deserve to have the same credit for learning their own history
- Stewart: Concern that making Ethnic Studies AA then takes away their only option as a year long non AA or AP credit
 - Owens: They are already operating at that higher level and students who don't want to do the work are choosing not to
- H-T: Could it be possible to offer both Ethnic Studies and Ethnic Studies AA but have them in the same class?
 - Owens: Seeing more academic growth; concerned over how to offer weighted vs non-weighted credit if they are doing the same work
- Perdrix: If the goal is to improve courses, isn't that exactly what has been done?
- Schneider: Almost all other departments have college prep, AA, then AP. If this passes, SS department only has AA and AP
 - Perdrix: There are still other classes they could do. Key point at the heart of proposal is students being able to learn about their heritage and history and see the real-world side of this
- Sweeney: What is the work done outside of class? That seems to be where rigor ramps up
 - Owens: They bring in information to discuss in class; not so much specific homework assignments, does not think students need to have homework for it to be rigorous
- Clarifications

- Only 15 students going on reservation trip
- Students go to an ethnic-based play
- Sweeney: Request to take this new information back to departments
- Morgan: Why not propose all electives are AA and a CP option
- Smith: Reminding ILT that we already approved two AA classes
 - Stewart:
- Motion to take this back to departments for discussion
- Motion Voted On: Motion Passes

Max AP Classes Per Year For Students

Schnure/Harsh/Pfeiffer

- Proposal to discuss a max AP for students
- Sweeney: Guide used to say max APs are 3 (and if they want more, they need to consult counselors and they need to have academic achievement) but that has been taken out
- Chambers: Problem is that if we limit it, students will sign up for CCP and we lose them as AP students
- Stewart: How many students are even taking more than 3 APs? Need to research
- Just proposed as a possible discussion

Program Requirements

Chambers

- Discussed with Latin Department about requirements for taking Latin
- Seemed very strange that incoming students at ninth grade don't have to take Latin but 7th-9 do.
- Chambers: Initial idea is to have Latin as a 2 year requirement for students entering at grades 9-10, one year of it at grades 11-12
 - Numbers are there to justify those classes
- H-T: Also concerned over the number of students who are taking Latin IV and completely avoiding a modern foreign language → Concern that this takes students
- Morgan: Is there a state requirement for modern language and is Latin in that?
 - Cabrera: There is not a requirement of language by the state to graduate
- Question raised on if the requirement is just language now instead of "modern language"
- Take this back to departments and teams to discuss

Meeting ends at 4:36