

**Walnut Hills High School**  
**Local Decision Making Committee Meeting**

December 20, 2018

6:00 PM

Agenda

**Attendance:** John Chambers, Ashley Thomas Morgan, Brad Smith, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Lisa Brokamp, Esme Wright, Bengy Mitchell, Shelby Ewing, Jack Garry, Zuri Williams, Jason Hilton, Sarah Hilton, Laura Stith Deck, Adrian Cabrera, Nick Robertson, Rich Coleman

1. Approval of November minutes- motion to approve L. Brokamp, second- J. Chambers
2. Old Business
  - a. Class Rank
    - i. Mrs. Hilton- Student Jake graduated last year, daughter Kate is a current student. Concerned with decision. Mention of considering starting with the next year's freshman class. Feels class rank helped son with entrance in college, and was motivated by class rank.
    - ii. Mr. Hilton- Jake and Kate Hilton's parents. Daughter is a sophomore at WHHS. Reviewed LSDMC meeting minutes. Reads mission statement. Fears removal of class rank doesn't support mission statement. Addresses meeting minutes from November 2017 regarding transparency with the committee. Looks at March 2017 meeting minutes. April meeting minutes, further discussion and consult was addressed. May minutes included decision to eliminate class rank, but minutes were not posted until following school year. Common app can still find this information on their own. States that have legislation that require class rank. Compares academics to athletics, music, arts. Needs to have a defined plan and needs to be implemented. Wants to let students decide.
    - iii. Students- Bengy Mitchell and student congress officers- Thank Ms. Rayburn for coming to meeting. Discussed valedictorian and timing. Not for or against either side. Wants to make sure student voice is adequately heard. Worried that Student Congress representatives were not giving accurate reports. Addressing and remediating situation. Feels process is expedited. Wants to hold off on decision until more voices are heard. Students feel 2021 is best option. Feel valedictorian should consider other factors besides academics. Nick Robertson relays that students don't know exactly what is going on. Want time to educate student body. Want to know if LSDMC is happy with the process? Is there a way that LSDMC will communicate further?
    - iv. Chambers- clarify timing. The purpose for LSDMC wanting to make decision has to do with optioning timeline. This way students are better informed before selecting classes. Clarifies the initial decision to discontinue to use class rank was related to mental health. Timeline to implement was based on student's optioning timeline. Want to hear

feedback from students. Brad Smith thinks the process was terrible. Brad Smith says this was never brought up at ILT, was not on ILT agenda, not brought to department meetings. Chambers reminds Smith it is LSDMC reps responsibility to take information to their groups and reps did not take information back to ILT or students. Feels the breakdown was in the representatives. Also explains that this information was originally brought up by a parent in Parent Board meeting. Shelby Ewing and Nick Robertson support the decision, like the idea of a top five student is valedictorian and looking at aspects beyond academics for consideration. Cabrera supports elimination of class rank from counselor standpoint. Laura thanks parents and students for statements, explains shift in LSDMC representatives from last year to this year and late decision in May created difficulty with dissemination of information. Purpose of LSDMC is to have representatives of all stakeholders (students, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents and community) and allow representatives to make votes. Laura shares the importance of the student voice at LSDMC and lets students know that WHHS LSDMC changed CPS LSDMC by-laws so that WHHS student LSDMC reps are voting members (CPS by-laws make students non-voting members). Rayburn reports from Student Congress meeting and ILT discussions. 9 departments in favor. Laura brings tonight's discussion to a conclusion, indicating it will be an ongoing agenda item until full plan is developed.

- b. Mental Health Update- Bring Change to Mind group. The motto for group is to lessen the stigma of mental health. We are funded \$500 per year to have the group. Met with Nancy Miller in 1N5. Providing programs for staff and students with self-care and skills to manage mental health. Ms. Flowers helps to coordinate crisis mental health. Chambers- update on equity in district. We are the least funded school in CPS. Asked for additional mental health support. District is potentially going to allocate funds for an additional mental health specialist. Smith proposes using resources to collect data regarding what stressors are.
  - c. Update on last year's Study Hall- tabled (Jessica Smitson was excused from the meeting and has the information to present)
  - d. Nurse update- current nurse who is on loan from Western Nursing. In negotiations regarding offering her position full time via CPS. No budgets to school nurse in CPS budget. Looking at starting salary and years of experience and taking those factors into account.
3. New Business
- a. Enrollment (Chambers)- projections for next year are exactly where we are right now this year. 3025 is the projection. Staffing will be based on those numbers. Staffing will be comparable to this year. More students in 11 and 12 grade than ever. Positions might change.
  - b. Budget (Chambers)- New process that Treasurer's Office and HR are using this year. They are giving us a new website called Open Gov. The actual budget

has not been loaded. They are implementing different pieces at a time. Shifting the whole budgeting process from enrollment based need to individual school based need. Principals were promised that budget would be loaded today. Will bring final budget and staffing sheet to committee. Martha Geller is retiring that position will look different in the budget.

4. Principal's Report
  - a. Finishing semester exams. Tomorrow is 7th bell exam. Return to school January 7th.
5. ILT Report
  - a. Stewart and Sweeney are working on proposal for PSAT day
  - b. Discussed AV issues.
  - c. October ILT voted to support LSDMCs class rank decision
  - d. Informed of changes to AP classes. When school orders the test, if a test is ordered for a student, the student has to pay for it.
  - e. ILT discussing a minimum make up policy for excused absences.
  - f. Schedule E- \$6000 difference
  - g. Approved Women in US History course, AP Research gets English credit, Greek 2, AP Russian is a possibility
  - h. Online vote for pep rally schedule
6. Student Report
  - a. Planning for second semester activities and discussing class rank
7. Community Report
  - a. No community report
8. Parent Report
  - a. Parent Board did not meet bc of conflict with College Planning meeting
  - b. Walnut Fest is February 1st at Rhinegeist – faculty and staff, in addition to parents, are encouraged to attend
  - c. Working on Legacy of Excellence
9. Other Business
  - a. 2018-2019 District Meetings
    - i. Wednesday, 2/27/2019 6-7:30
    - ii. Wednesday, 4/24/2019 6-7:30

B. Next WHHS LSDMC meeting: Thursday, January 17, 2019 or Joint LSDMC/ILT meeting as called for in the by-laws (option January 28 5-6 PM). Decision made to do the blended meeting March 20th, 2019. Suggestion to start meeting at 5:00 PM on 20th. Brad Smith will get approval from ILT. February LSDMC meeting needs to move from February 21st (due to new student registration) to February 20th.

C. Other?
  - a. Smith proposes that the minutes are posted within 3 days, there will still be an understanding that the minutes are approved still at LSDMC. Discussion regarding time constraints for person taking the minutes. Tabled until next meeting.
10. Adjournment 7:48 PM