

Walnut Hills High School
LSDMC Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019
6:00pm

Attendees: Laura Stith Deck, Esme Wright (Student Congress Rep), John Chambers, Francesca Bownas-Rayburn, Jessica Smitson, Terrance Poole, Ashley Morgan, Lisa Brokamp, Brad Smith, Sylvia Nelson

Guest: Sofia Tollefson

1. Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve L. Brokamp, seconded by S. Nelson; all approve

2. Old business

- Mental health update
 - GCBH representative, guidance representative, Mr. Chambers and Mr. Stewart, and parent who has expressed interest will meet to explore supports for students at Walnut Hills.
 - Parent concern: counselor hours, not here before and after school
 - Possible flexible staggered schedule for counselors next year to provide coverage from 7am-3pm.
 - Website adding Mental Health tab to top: Possibly “Health and Wellness” better title for tab. Stith Deck questioned when this will be live. It is in progress and hopefully soon.
- Enrollment update
 - Current 2978 students
 - No increases from last meeting
 - Requests coming in for enrollments are being directed to district customer service
 - There are a few spaces left for 7th grade 2019-2020 (current 521/540)
 - There are no spaces available for grades 9-12
- Class rank
 - Continue with exercise on “distinguished graduate”
 - Committee used proposal submitted by LSDMC committee member as a starting point for discussion:

Problem

Previously, Walnut Hill determined its class valedictorian by GPA based class rank. Under a pure GPA based system, hundredths of a point separated the top-ranked students. In the past, some students “gamed” the system by inflating their GPA through several tactics that included use of

off-campus programs. Not all students have the resources to take advantage of off-campus programs.

Proposed Solution

Create a points-based program that rewards a student's participation in activities in addition to academics. The goal of the program is to recognize students who were committed and involved throughout all four years of their high school experience.

Many schools have replaced traditional class rank with a points-based program. But Walnut Hills is not a typical high school. Our program should acknowledge Walnut's core mission to drive a rigorous academic program. To acknowledge Walnut's unique legacy, 60% of the available points are allocated to academics, with the remaining 40% allocated to sports, arts, activities, and service.

To enjoy broad support, the program needs to be transparent, so that everyone clearly understands how it works, and manageable, so that staff can administer it effectively and efficiently.

- Distinguished Graduate will replace current Valedictorian
- Currently, Salutatorian speaks at Cum Laude ceremony
 - Starting with class of 2021, Cum Laude speaker will be chosen by the Cum Laude Committee
- What if we have a tie in the Distinguished Scholar program? Committee considering these 2 choices:
 - Each student will speak (with a predetermined amount of time allotted)
 - Task subcommittee to interview through speech proposal
- What if the Cum Laude speaker is also the Distinguished Scholar speaker?
 - Student will speak at both Cum Laude ceremony and at graduation
- Question raised regarding students not able to participate in social clubs due to personal obligations (work after school, childcare after school, etc...)
 - Many clubs meet during lunch time to allow for more participation and social support.
 - Some, such as Chatterbox and REM are offered as classes students can take during the school day.
- *Social clubs are those that are not competitive.
- Will the designation of Distinguished Scholar (DS) be a well-rounded student?
 - Using the DS model there are two objectives:
 - Replace Valedictorian

- Encourage student participation in WHHS activities
- Replacing the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, is a positive as it has traditionally thought to stress kids out and cause anxiety and parental pressure to become the school Valedictorian. That will be gone.
- LSDMC proposed and passed eliminating class rank not eliminating Valedictorian and Salutatorian, but rather looking for senior class representative that embodies the whole of Walnut, not just academics.
- Students must apply and be eligible to be a DS speaker at graduation
 - If student takes a CCP course with a Walnut teacher it counts toward eligibility for DS speaker. CCP courses outside of Walnut are not factored into Cum Laude designation.
- Walnut Hills Distinguished Scholar – suggestion to use *Insignes Scholar* or *Scholar Insignes* (Latin translation for DS) *need to verify with Latin teacher prior to announcement
- Insignes Scholar will be chosen from the top 20% of the Cum Laude students.
 - Students will need to apply.
 - Students must have attended Walnut in grades 7-12
 - Committee will review applications
 - Application will include recommendation letter from coach, community member, moderator (not teacher)
- Committee will consist of: (student names will be redacted from application)
 - 2 teachers
 - Alumnus (community member from LSDMC?)
 - Principal
 - Cum Laude committee member
 - School board member
- Proposal: Walnut Hills Insignes Scholar designation as outlined in the original problem solution draft (above) with academics will be chosen through the cum laude top 20%. Subcommittee will review applications from the top 20% of cum laude students with stipulation that the student must have attended Walnut Hills from grades 7-12. The subcommittee will determine the additional criteria beyond what is listed above. The top 20% of the cum laude students will be invited to apply to the Insignes Scholar program.

3. New business

- LSDMC end of year evaluation
 - Review questions and responses

4. Principal's Report

- Wrapping up second week of AP exams
 - Over 3400 AP exams administered
 - Semester exams scheduled for next week
 - Students filled out release forms for study hall classes
 - Academic signing day and Senior send-off is scheduled for Monday, 05/20
 - Graduation is May 23 at 6:30pm at Fifth Third Arena at UC
5. **ILT Report**
- Approved schedule for PSAT day
 - Approved policy for 7th grade teams to have 3 days each to schedule Field Trips
 - Discussing August PD day and Learning Teams
 - Ideas include grade level curriculum
 - Approved Ethnic Studies AA for 2020-20201 school year
 - Science department summer school - main concern is lack of labs in summer school. Will be reviewed at next ILT meeting, May 22.
 - Motion tabled for future date: classroom testing during AIR testing
 - Goals of the school have not changed. All students take AP.
6. **Student Report**
- None
7. **Community Report**
- Chambers reported that Alumni Foundation is celebrating WHHS 125th anniversary (Class of 2020)
 - There will be Alumni Foundation activities
8. **Parent Report:**
- Stith Deck shared that Walnutfest will feature a limited run of an etched glass piece available for purchase for 125th anniversary
 - Nelson had conversation with parent expressing two concerns:
 - Concerns surrounding testing
 - Is there an option to have testing reserved for specific core classes on specific days?
 - There is a potential for a student to have more than one core class (Women's History and US History) and tests on the same day
 - Suggestion: Many teachers are willing to change date of test if they understand there are other tests on same day. Students are encouraged to talk to teachers to see if they are willing to move test to another day.
 - Locker assignments: Why do not all kids get lockers?
 - All students are assigned a locker, but unfortunately we do not have enough lockers to assign a personal locker to every student.
 - At this point 7, 8, 11, and 12 get their own lockers, while 9 and 10 are encouraged to share.
 - Idea to have 7th graders choose locker at orientation (if they bring a lock) so they have a locker on the first day of school.
9. **Other Business**
- Next WHHS LSDMC meeting: Email will come out at beginning of 2019-20 school year with the schedule for the year
 - Looking forward – plans for next year

- Student Engagement
- PBIS-carnival homecoming?
- Enrollment issues
- Other?
 - Reinstigate fun traditions to school

10. Adjournment

- 8:02 Motion L. Brokamp, seconded by F. Bownas-Rayburn