

WiHi PTO 10/12/15

Attendees: Kelley Bezrutch, Kim Vnuk-Kronick, Tami Schumacher, Meg Wallace, Alexabelle Talbott, Stacey Spencer, Naina Chethan, Eve Kerr, Stacy Sucarski, Paula Drummond,, Carol Knight-Drain, Caitlin Olmstead-Phillips, Janet Tang, Karen Moruly, Shazia Ansari, Joy Lange, Nadia Husin, Carrie Harnish, Chris Kyle, Pellar Kosbar, Jen Barba, Susan Hutton, Ayesha Taj, Riba Khan, Khadija Peracha, Cindy & Ken Ward.

Introductions

Principal's Update Nhu Do—(Glad to be back for a visit—still on maternity leave until end of November)

Oct 28-29 Conferences—Background: Students are at the center of conferences. They will complete reflections sheets in each of their classes including goals, strengths, and areas of growth. Parents sign up on “Sign up genius” for 5 minute time slots for each teacher for conferences. Students welcome to come as well. Everyone should build in 5 minutes between conferences. If there is a big issue, set up a separate conference. All teachers will be in the gym and cafeteria.

Instructional initiatives:

- 1) Standards based grading—will not discuss tonight because it has been discussed in other venues
- 2) Renewed focus on higher order thinking questions. Challenge students to think critically instead of just asking them facts. How do you? Can you provide evidence? How does this apply to real life scenario?
- 3) WiHi wants students to have more balance in their lives. WiHi is committed to make sure that students are supported to reach high standards, but also want them to enjoy high school experience. Some policies to support this include:
 - a) Homework-free weekends.
 - b) Moratorium on new work the week before exams. No new content the week prior to exams.
 - c) No more than 2 assessments per day
 - d) 4 day block schedule.They welcome other ideas to manage the work load. Suggestions at meeting:
 - a) Make product team a study hall? It is supposed to be community building. But should not have homework. Most teachers allow students some time to do homework.
 - b) Put the assignments on Moodle faster.
 - c) Could school better support students who do activities outside of school? If miss an IO because of sports they would get a zero. Answer: Happy to make adjustments and accommodations to support students who do sports with home school district.
 - d) Website could celebrate extracurricular achievements as well.
 - e) Sponsor viewing of “Blind Spot” (movie)
- 4) Academic Supports and interventions: Small nurturing environment is a benefit to our school. Teachers care about your children. There are many systems in place to see that students who need help, get support. Counselors look at grades and make sure that students are getting support. Nemo, Giddings and/or Hoover will be assigned to them as counselors and to touch base with them. WiHi has a building intervention team. WiHi has graduate assistants to support students. WiHi has after-school tutoring from teachers. Are these things new? Policies have been in place but continuing to improving implementation. If C- or worse, should be getting notice from teacher to tell the student how he can improve. Oct 23 is the end of the quarter.

Questions:

How do recommend getting your child to visit the teacher? One parent volunteered that it can sometimes just become necessary based on grades and that Mr. Nemorovsky had really supported them. WiHi has a checklist to help illuminate what it takes to be a good student: Take notes, ask questions, create test questions and test yourself. Go see your teacher with 3 questions about content. Improving study habits is a constant process for all students. Another important thing is developing the skill to self-advocate. Students can be very prideful and will not admit that they need help. WiHi is trying to change from “fixed” mindset to a “growth” mindset.

Comments:

College counseling: WiHi’s goal is to help students find a school that is best fit for them—would like to de-emphasize “status” of schools.

One parent comment: Students don’t want to miss class to go to college visits. In a perfect world, colleges would visit at product team or lunch, but not entirely in the school’s control. Ms Do will send the message to teachers that they should encourage students to participate in college visits..

Minutes approved from last meeting.

Budget: Ahead on membership dues. PTO gave magnets to teachers and staff. ~\$2600 balance. Budget based on last year. Questions?

EZ Free money. Need to notify PTO if already signed up last year in order to get credit for your child’s class in competition. Prize is the chance to use senior courtyard. Grocery card or scrip. Email PTO let them know. Contest was supposed to end 10/30—however at the meeting the deadline was extended to Weekend before Thanksgiving (in November). Approved.

Stugo:

- 1) Fall Event on Friday 10/16. Looking for chaperones. Need 6 more or will have to cancel. Halloween themes.
- 2) Prom will be at the Polo Fields in Ann Arbor. Set price for food drink. Masquerade is the theme.
- 3) International Dinner: 370 attendees \$ 2676 (1/2 went to stugo and ½ to MSA).
- 4) This week is Spirit week.

Teacher Representative: Mr. Garcia directing a play (Halloween short stories Riverside Art Center. Family friendly) and cannot be here.

IB Curriculum Presentation on the Extended Essay (EE): due in Senior year. 4000 word research paper. Written outside of class. Faculty will guide students through the process. Mr. Pierson is the EE coordinator. Begins in Feb of junior year, they pick a topic and will be assigned a mentor. Should mostly be done in summer between junior/senior year. To be graded it is sent to IB headquarters. Graded on scale of A-E. Due after the common app. Due Friday before the holiday week. TOK=Theory of knowledge. EE and TOK can earn up to 3 points.

Meals for conferences: You can still sign up. Leave it in kitchen. Just label what it is for.

Wolf Fairies—Money donated to this fund will be used to supplement funding where school has enriching activities that have a cost. Anonymous sign up to apply for funds. Starting point for dispersing these funds would be for those who get free and reduced lunch. Other examples: Cedar Point Trip. (\$60/student est \$780). Senior Fees. Junior Senior Prom. Entry fees international dinner, forensics. Estimate we will need ~\$2500. Will solicit donations. Not 501c3 yet, but working on it.

As a separate activity, we will have a teacher/staff needs list (books, etc). Will set up a sign up for donations. Will be linked to the PTO website. Wish List and Fairy are 2 different things.

Students using gym after school for sports. Not allowing for now. Would need a supervisor. Can't be a teacher because they have other obligations. Parents won't work. Maybe GA. There have been some problems: Kids took equipment, and some sports dominated. WiHi would like to encourage more sports-oriented clubs and they will also start having days designated in the gym for different sports. Want to make them gym available, but needs to be safe.

Access to school computers if waiting for a ride? GA in computer lab between 2:30-4

Overview November meeting:

- 1) Academic bullying. Unity Day 10/21 (wear orange). Need to start a dialogue. PTO meeting extension of that.
- 2) More college counseling spots open for juniors.
- 3) Create a group that will review grant proposals.