

Site Council Meeting Minutes for 12/14/22

1:30-2:30pm abbreviated meeting during finals week

12 people in attendance: J.C. Farr, Andy Lieberman, Ben Cleaveland, Laura Erickson, Mehreen Ahmad, Wayne Price, Cynthia Joy Koo, Dabney Ingram, Laura Figueirinhas, Ruby Kosek, Elaine Wilkinson, Adrian McCory

1. Laura began meeting at 1:30pm.
2. J.C. update: Huge win - Marin transit busing agreed to change its schedule so students coming to Tam from Marin City can get to school on time. The prior schedule meant they either had to arrive very early or late. Route 17 bus will now start from MC at 7:54am to arrive at Tam before 8:30am! J.C. added a side note that students generally are tardy and there also seems to be a mindset issue that it's ok to be late to school.
3. Approved agenda: First motion by Elaine. Second Ruby. All approved.
4. Approved prior Nov 16th minutes: First motion by Maureen. Second by Ben. All approved.
5. Dabney's "public" presentation was next: Dabney shared a proposed draft of a 2-pager that delineates expected roles of students vs. parents vs. school when it comes to managing tardiness/attendance issues, navigating a student being out sick, monitoring academics/grades, and accessing school communications. The hope is to be really clear and concise about how we collectively support Tam students – as a possible simple handout. The group got a copy of the draft and discussed feedback and related issues it brought up. Dabney will update the document to reflect comments shared such as:
 - Elaine: tutorial needed for Canvas/ParentVUE/website – so much info already available but parents need to be guided on how to access what they need. Hard to navigate which apps provide which info.
 - Website is cluttered and outdated – needs to be cleaned up. Idea: The handout can become buttons on the updated website as jumping off points
 - Tip: parents coach students on how to navigate issues at school. If student emails a teacher, they should cc the parent.
 - Maureen would like parents to review their student's attendance data once a week. Laura E wondered if ParentVUE could auto-send an email to parents weekly if there are attendance/tardy issues that week.
 - Joy offered to organize a parent tutorial with Maureen as a presenter.
6. J.C. presentation about school climate per CA Healthy Kids Survey (CAHKS) data from March 2022.
 - Opening comments by J.C.: Much is said about Tam that is based on what people think or feel and is not grounded in data. E.g., How we think and feel about the topic of attendance may not reflect the data - Tam's attendance rate is 96-97% but we talk so much about our attendance problems. School climate data from CAHKS can show us how people FEEL about the school.
 - J.C. had attendees break into small groups to closely examine segments of the data packet and to look for observations and inferences based on concrete data. We spent the next 20-ish minutes combing through data on school connectedness, alcohol/drug use, mental health, etc. J.C. provided a template to collect feedback and takeaways from the data.

- There wasn't much remaining time to share out takeaways but two were quickly shared:
 - Ben: 9th grade Black/African American students report 12% belonging – very low. Then it jumps up to 44% in 10th grade. Is there a special transition support needed for incoming Black students? Is there something that happens in 10th grade that makes belonging go up? Laura E. commented that the 9th grade dip could also partly reflect the pandemic experience during middle school years impeding students from bonding with classmates socially.
 - Elaine: school connectedness and gender split – how build more connectedness outside of gender-defined sports? Non-binary students are having low social connectedness.
 - Discussion of this topic will continue at the January meeting.
- 7. Elaine shared Tam Foundation update:
 - New furniture for science and other classrooms coming next week
 - We are \$200k short of our target. Really want to be able to support the grants program in the spring.
- 8. Laura F: heard very positive feedback about Tam students at the holiday faire at the lumberyard. Community members really impressed with them.
- 9. Adrian - student report: bomb threat debrief – students wondered why they couldn't just leave. Would help to highlight to students the reason for particular procedures when there's a bomb threat. Teachers also seemed unsure of what was going on. Need to improve communications overall. But even so, it went well and smoothly given how much students disliked it.
 - JC responded: our #1 responsibility is safety and to move 1700 people from point A to B safely. Top priority is to get all kids home safely even if that means they don't know exactly what's happening.
 - Adrian: A lot of people thought it was a drill.
 - Laura E: a debrief would be good – acknowledgement of students that they did a really great job.

Laura adjourned meeting at 2:30pm.