

Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes Wednesday, Feb 15th, 2023, from 3:20 – 4:50pm,
Mountain Room, Library

Members in Attendance: J.C. Farr, Andy Lieberman, Laura Erikson, Susan Malanche, Ben Cleaveland, Adrian McCory, Dean Gustavson, Ruby Kosek, Mehreen Ahmad, Wayne Price, Cynthia Joy Koo, Laura Figueirinhas, Dabney Ingram

Guests in attendance: Elaine Wilkinson (THF), Maria from COMPASS, Mr. LemMon and Gabby from SEJA

Call to Order: 3:25 pm by Laura Figueirinhas

Approval of the agenda & prior meeting minutes: Adrian McCory motions to approve the agenda. Andy Lieberman seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes. Dabney Ingram motions to approve minutes. Mehreen Ahmad seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Public Comment: Elaine Wilkinson from Tam High Foundation reported they received over \$500k in spring grant requests from teachers but they are short on funds and have a \$350k budget. Ask limit is \$12.5k in the fall but no limit in spring. Last request for funding went out today and will close this Friday. Much to celebrate that they've been able to fund to support teachers and students!

AVID: was on agenda but was unable to join

COMPASS: Maria from COMPASS shared info about the COMPASS program at Tam, which is a dual enrollment comprehensive college access program. In partnership with College of Marin (COM). A key goal is to explore what college is all about.

- COMPASS is at Tam, Terra Linda, and San Rafael High. It's a cohort model program – i.e., one cohort per grade level.
- This year COMPASS is piloting a partnership with AVID, for the current 9th grade cohort only. Next year, they'll expand AVID partnership to 9th and 10th grade cohorts. It's going well so far. This means 9th graders are in AVID elective class and get COMPASS during that class. 10th through 12th graders attend COMPASS via Wed Tutorial instead, which is challenging because (a) shorter time period than AVID elective; (b) sometimes canceled because of a minimum day or conflicting Tutorial activity/assembly; (c) sometimes students can't make it because of some other pressing academic need for that tutorial period.
- Current enrollment: 20 in COMPASS/AVID 9th grade cohort. 13 in 10th grade COMPASS. 17 in 11th grade COMPASS. 26 in 12th grade COMPASS.
- Goals for each grade: 9th grade is about transitioning to Tam. 10th is being in a college-like/prep class. 10th grade also gets COM counseling class. 11th is getting on college track. 12th setting up for success for college application process. A key overarching goal is to build rapport and community among the students within each cohort to stay together. Program is most effective if students join from 9th grade. Field trips to colleges – e.g., visited COM today – for many it was their first time on a college campus. COMPASS also supports those below 2.0 GPA.
- Q: How identify students to join from 8th to 9th? A: Program is for first generation students, who are often low income. Lots of word of mouth and referral.
- Maria is on campus at Tam 3 days a week and after school.
- Teacher comment: there has been a lot of internal communication about COMPASS to refer students who can benefit. It's doing really great things!

Social and Environmental Justice Academy “SEJA”: Mr. LemMon (teacher) and 12th grader Gabby shared about SEJA. This is the second year of this new program.

- What is SEJA? An offering for 11th and 12th graders who are interested in exploring social justice/envirom justice issues and action-oriented projects. Students can sign up for it (no application process – want no barriers for entry) – best to do SEJA both years but can also do it for one year. 11th graders take AP Lang Comp/US History and 12th graders take Essay Exposition/Oral Rhetoric and Govt/Econ. 11th grade gives you the language and value to then do the action work 12th grade.
- Sample activities: Students voted on a social justice issue to act on. Met with an attorney to talk about police brutality. Went to MV film festival in San Rafael to see, “The Young Vote” about voting rights. Students went together to register to vote. Starting Tam High Innocence Project to work on wrongful convictions. In the spring, taking action around Tam campus, did campus cleanup, celebrated International Women’s Day. Plan to watch MTC show, Where do I sit on the bus? Reading “The Sum of Us” – great economic social justice book. Houselessness is another topic they explore.
- Gabby (a senior) shared: focusing on GDP and unemployment. Lots of hands-on activities. Mr. LemMon really connects with students and with different learning styles. Reading “Just Mercy” and discussing different issues each week – very enlightening to dig deeply into topics. Very discussion based. A very positive class.
- Q: Is there an enrollment cap on SEJA? A: It’s all lottery based. Depends on having section size alignment. Enrollment currently is two sections per grade so 63 per grade right now.

Principal Report: JC Farr

- We’re in the middle of scheduling; course requests and then allocation based on the data. Then section allocation from district to build master schedule for next year.
- Graduation planning in the works; AP testing coming; prom – very busy time coming up.
- We’ve held detentions on Wed and Fridays. It’s not a deterrent so revisiting. 50-60 students there so it’s almost like a party. Three tardies in one week will send you to detention. Q: can they do chores around campus instead? A: No, that’s too much to handle, not feasible. Queries include: Need to increase what qualifies for detention? How actually change behavior? Could morning detention be a more effective punishment?
- Campus is looking cleaner. Harold is doing a great job.

Teacher Report: Susan Malanche, Laura Erikson

- Bathroom problem: Mixed messages across the teachers. Need more uniformity and accountability – what’s our bathroom culture? Adults need to work together to handle this. It’s hard to stay accountable to bathroom passes strategy when teachers aren’t aligned or using the same approach in every classroom. But it’s also hard to monitor and enforce bathroom use while busy teaching. Teacher often has to trust the students.

Student Report: Adrian McCory (12th grade), Dean Gustavson (11th Grade), Ruby Kosek (10th grade)

- Bathroom passes: Passes go missing/are never returned, or students forget to grab one (and aren’t stopped so it’s fine). Not enforced by some teachers. The whole bathroom passes system

has never been explained to students. And, not all parts of campus are equal in terms of bathroom quality/comfort, so it feels like unfair access. Wood bathroom is a girls party. Students are supposed to go to a bathroom in their 'zone' but often go to different bathrooms across campus where they feel more comfortable.

- Issues with girls locker room: can't access locker room when needed. The front door is barricaded. Many lockers are closed with zip ties.
- Coming soon: Trying to elicit student feedback for site council with surveys at each grade level via tutorial slides
- Lack of working clocks in classrooms. This is hard when phones stowed and want a clock for exam management.
- Parking: feels like there's an increase in cars. Have to park further and further away. Discussion about how to resolve and how students repeatedly take teacher spaces.

Classified Report: Mehreen Ahmad, Wayne Price

- Mehreen: will make recorded video about Canvas/ParentVUE based on parent input/questions submitted.
- Bathroom issue: Purpose of passes is to limit people out and in which areas of campus. Students keep the passes. Generally, it has gotten a little bit better. But high school students always try to get around systems. 70 tutorial classes so even if one kid is out during any class, that's 70 kids out during classes!

Parent Report: Cynthia Joy Koo, Laura Figueirinhas, Dabney Ingram

- Asked for feedback about bathroom passes implementation which was covered above from various perspectives.
- Concern about 10th grade bubble year and course enrollment. Response: district sets the sections allotment that then determines master schedule.
- AP/Honors Night was very helpful and appreciated
- Building signage issue: missing signs, poorly visible signs, confusing for parents and visitors. Could wood working class improve signage?

4:50 - Meeting Adjourns