

Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Oct 4th, 2023, from 3:40 – 4:50pm, Mountain Room, Library [*delayed start due to staff PD on a minimum day*]

11 SSC members in attendance: Dr. Kimberly Clissold (principal), Laura Erikson (science teacher), Mehreen Ahmad (data), Helen Kay (student rep 10th), Ruby Kosek (student rep 11th), Laura Figueirinhas (parent), Dabney Ingram (parent), Susan Malanche (Spanish teacher), Alyssa Sandner (teacher - Intervention coordinator), Dean Gustavson (12th Grade), Lisa Callaghan (parent + classified health specialist).

Call to order: 3:45 pm by Laura Figueirinhas

Today's agenda approved: Mehreen motions to approve, Ruby seconds. All in favor. Motion approved.

Prior meeting minutes approved: Dean motions to approve, Helen seconds. All in favor. Motion approved.

No public comment.

Site Council training and bylaws: Dr. Clissold will create a short presentation at the next meeting (Nov) to train the SSC on site council guidelines - a nice touchstone to return to when there are questions. No handbook currently exists so will create one. Discussed the difference between guidelines and bylaws. Dr Clissold will weave the bylaws into next meeting's training. Mehreen motions to postpone discussion of bylaws to next meeting during the SSC training, Dabney seconds. All in favor. Motion approved. Susan confirmed it's ok for her to serve for a third year – she may recruit another teacher. Group discussed that staff need to be recruited in the spring for the next year.

Parent engagement policy & Parent Compact documents: We reviewed and edited these documents at the last meeting. Revisited some edits and Dr. Clissold finalized the documents. Motion to approve by Dr. Clissold. Alyssa and Dean second the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Announcements/reports:

Principal: Back parking lot (BPL) has reopened – so impressed with respectfulness of student population to advocate for BPL being open during construction delay – working well for now. Not sure when Miller lot will close just yet. Homecoming dance went well – DJ was very expensive but did a good job. Photo booth and swag were a success. There was a late request for outdoor area but it was too late to take action on – will work on that for next dance. Students were locked in and complained, so Dr Clissold will revisit the policy based on student feedback. Turns out it's not a policy but the practice used by all schools in the district. If can shore up so parents know where their students are, then may be able to make a change on that. 8 students left early (not ok) but the rest stayed (50 wanted to leave). Homecoming spirit days all week were great – but not many people going all out on beach day. Grades due today.

Teachers: grades due today and will be mailed out on Friday. Feeling really good right now: vast majority of students are turning in work and there's good energy. Signs that students are keeping up and engaging. Back to School Night was good!

Students: lots happening with leadership with the rally. Things are going well. Rumor that field turning to astroturf (not validated; some pushback about environmental and health outcomes of that). Hopes for lights on the field but community pushback; students are trying to engage the community via NextDoor in a grassroots way to advocate for lights. Homecoming dance went really well – good turnout. Only issue was people being not allowed to leave from 7-9 with no food, so some complaints about being locked in when wanted food. BPL being open is great for seniors. Bells are back, but students didn't really notice. Lack of working clocks in the classrooms is still an issue. Leadership had communication issues with admin about homecoming dance: thought there was an outdoor area, and wanted more say on DJ songs, but generally good.

Classified: Busy with grades coming in – going smooth so far. Health office has a really small budget. Should they apply every year for Tam High Foundation funding? What's sustainable way to meet their funding needs? Dr. Clissold suggested they talk directly about this.

Parents: Would like to add an open-ended way to elicit feedback for site council on the website. Discussed the idea and group agreed to give it a try. Dabney will draft a simple google form to pilot for a period. Complaint from a parent about how it's cumbersome to report student absences – classified will revisit process. Incredible turnout for beautification day. Chipping away at tasks! Would love electricity back to the pond (was there in the 80s) to keep fish alive with a bubbler.

Halloween conversation: Discussion about the Halloween culture at Tam. Students don't usually dress up if there is not an event or reason to. Leadership could possibly pull together some kind of Halloween and Dia de los Muertos event. Dr Clissold reminded students that Halloween costume needs to uphold equity, safety, and ability to learn. Discussion about a respectful separate celebration of Dia de los Muertos driven by Latinos Unidos.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm