

Minutes of the SPMT meeting of 11-9-16

Present:

V. Smith, PTSO
S. Franklin, SSST
W. Alwang, CCT
D. Stannard, Resource
B. Smith-Huckabey, ELT
R. Sexton, Parent
W. Decter, Accreditation
J. Webb, Administration/Capstone
Z. Parrish, Principal/ART
J. Donahue, Eng/Capstone
Myah Darden, Student Representative, Sophomore Treasurer
Alison Moriarty-Daley, School Based Health Center
Dana Smart, School Nurse
Emmanuel Colon, Clifford Beers Clinician
Dr. Fay Brown
B. Corcoran, Administration/Activities
S. Ciarcia, Administration

Norms:

- Start on time and end on time (2:30 pm -3:30 pm)
- Members should provide a substitute if they cannot attend
- Adhere to the principles of collaboration, consensus, and no fault problem solving

1. Minutes of previous meeting were briefly reviewed.

2. Dr. Brown was kind enough to give us an overview of the functioning of the SPMT. The three main groups, Parent's Organization, SPMT, and SSST must communicate back and forth at the highest level. Dr. Brown is happy to see the increased level of parent participation we have this year. The SPMT members pool their wisdom and collaborate to make decisions that support the social development and academic learning of all students. The SPMT is the schools' decision-making team that enables key stakeholders to own the process to create the school culture that supports student development and academic learning. At the base of the school management structure is the foundation of relationships. Relationships between students and teachers and among all of the stakeholders are the key to achieving a climate that supports student success. Dr. Brown reminds us that last year we wanted to be sure to pay more attention to adolescent development to help with behavioral issues. This goal is aligned with our SIP and we are having PD regarding Social Emotional Learning and beginning to use Review 360 to document and chart behaviors. Dr. Brown

reminds us that we should from time to time be asking where do we stand with regards to our SIP? Are we meeting our goals?

3. SSST Data Sharing. Dr. Franklin compiled data to show behavioral trends over the last four years. He included fighting/altercation/battery/assault, insubordination/inappropriate behavior, skipping class, obscene language, threat/intimidation, sexual harassment, and leaving the grounds without permission. The data was compiled from school net which charts all incidents so may not be 100% accurate but we can look at the overall trends. The new Review 360 system should be more accurate.

- Looking at cohorts shows that by the time freshmen become seniors there is significant improvement in their behavior. We speculate this may be because they feel more connected to the school. It may also be because students who don't feel connected are more apt to go elsewhere to finish their education.
- Skipping class is the largest single referral. Ninth graders doubled their cuts as sophomores.
- Leaving the grounds without permission occurs more in the lower grades than in the upper grades.
- Ninth graders are fighting more than tenth graders.

The transition from 8th to 9th grade is critical. Statistics show that if students are failing freshman English and Algebra I they have a much lower chance of graduating high school. More support is needed from 7th/8th grade teams to ensure a smooth transition to 9th grade.

Suggestion: Survey by department at the beginning of each year: Are your students academically prepared to enter this class? Relate behavior to academic readiness. Also, what are the seniors doing right? Can they communicate this to the lower grades?

4. Parent Voice: The PTSO has more parent involvement this year. This year we have Mrs. Sexton as our SPMT representative. We also have representatives to the overall PTSO. We have 300 brand new coats to give to our families at report card night. There will be a pasta dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 on November 17th. There are flyers about this in all English rooms and a parent link phone call will be sent out.

5. Student Voice: Our student representative was asked about cell phone use in class. She believes that students should not have access to their phones throughout an entire class but also believes that a code C is too disruptive a solution. Students see this as a "show." She believes a total cell phone ban is too harsh. Myah says that the student-teacher relationship is most important. If a student and teacher have a good relationship then a simple "please put your phone away" will suffice. She feels it is okay to collect phones during tests and

standardized tests. Also Myah feels that she always does better in a class where she feels the teacher cares about her. Relationships are key!

Myah suggests that peer-to-peer information is best. Friends can tell friends to put their phones away. Student government can remind students of cell phone policy.

7. Dr. Brown's comments: Kudos to Dr. Franklin for providing excellent data that allows us to have deep discussions and ask questions. Kudos to Myah for her excellent observations and mature presentation.

8. Activities: Spirit Week and Pep Rally approved. More information needed for T-shirt sales and movie afternoons and candy gram.

9. Points of Action:

- Determine who is the representative from Activities
- Remember to review the SIP and evaluate where we stand on meeting goals.

Dates of upcoming meetings: 12/13, 1/10, 2/1, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13-closing meeting

Respectfully submitted on 11-10-16 ,
W. Decter, M.D.