

School Advisory Council

Minutes from 12/15/15

1. November meeting minutes were approved by Alison McDowell and Judge Hayden.

2. High School Report

- ❖ Canned food drive is over.
- ❖ Field Day date TBD. There will be no Spirit Week this year; a one-year hiatus is in effect. There were concerns over lack of planning and supervision. The cost may run upwards of \$14,000 for equipment, field rental, busses, t-shirts and bandanas. Judge Hayden raised a question of how/who made the decision to move from Spirit Week to Field Day. Ms. Brown's concerns in raising the questions of whether to continue having Spirit Week vs Field Day were based on student safety and building community. Last year, specifically, there was negative undertones on social media, during activities and injuries.
- ❖ Seniors feel that many items are being altered/removed this year for them.
- ❖ The Ski Trip (run by HSSG and Ms. Moore) has been tentatively scheduled for February 29, 2016. The cost will be near \$100 per student.
- ❖ International Day is scheduled for December 23. Students will take part in workshops about various cultures and food will be available.

3. Middle School Report

- ❖ Pretzel orders have been raised to 230 and continue to sell out weekly.
- ❖ Stuffed animals are being collected until 12/18 for Philadelphia Children's Alliance
- ❖ 7th and 8th grade dance in April (Mardi Gras theme)
- ❖ 5th and 6th grade carnival in June
- ❖ MSSG wants to put an American flag on the roof. Will the custodial staff raise and lower is daily?

4. Principal Report

- ❖ Report Card conferences occurred last week and went smoothly.
- ❖ High School Concert was 12/10
- ❖ Middle School Concert is 12/17
- ❖ We were recommended for Middle States accreditation
- ❖ Office Depot Senior of the Month is Kyra Williams
- ❖ Junior Seminar was 8 weeks has been about mindfulness (dealing with anxiety and stress) and has had 2 outside teachers coming in weekly. This was supported by a grant. In the Spring, the Seniors will have this program. Ms. Brown is looking into funding this for 7th and/or 8th graders next year. It would require 6 outside teachers and take place during Guidance.

5. Home and School

- ❖ Getting ready for the auction in April 2016
- ❖ Discussion of Alumni Relations and Corporate Financing
Mr. Borda will attend the 3rd Annual Blue Dragon Classic at Masterman on December 19 from 5:30 til 9pm. He will give surveys to those attending to gather contact info and interest in their playing more of a presence in the Masterman community. Two to three hundred are expected to attend.

6. Otis Hackney (current principal of Southern and new Chief Education Officer under Mayor-Elect Kenney as of Jan. 4, 2016)

- ❖ Otis assessed all providers of services at Southern upon arrival and made decisions to keep or terminate relationships with them in his building. Currently he has over 20 providers. Each reaches a different population of students that need services our district does not provide. There is a monthly meeting between he and the providers to report involvement and compliance, discuss effectiveness and changes going forward.
- ❖ Services include: migrant, mental health, Outward Bound, afterschool credit recovery, summer camps, culinary arts, music (Curtis Institute). Curtis was funded through an existing relationship with Wells Fargo.
- ❖ These services are deemed effective- students who take part in them have higher attendance and grades now.
- ❖ He added an additional counselor besides the one that the district provides.

Community Schools

- ❖ It is hard to get the message to parents, i.e. 19 languages are spoken. Otis sends messages to parents using the providers as liaisons in the community.
- ❖ Must have site-based governance teams
- ❖ Supplement existing services, not supplant them
- ❖ Steps to implementing community schools: work with the district policy on language, every school must form a site-based leadership team, every school will have a resource coordinator that work with the principal.
- ❖ How to adapt the community schools vision at high-performing schools such as C.W. Henry and Masterman: establish a site-based governance team (such as SAC), use a resource coordinator, resource-map your school. Look for redundancies and gaps in services. Is something an EC function, how can it be made better with an outside provider, ask the kids and they will tell you what they want to see in school both before, during and after hours and weekends