

HS Partnership Team Meeting Minutes 10/19/09

3:05

Attendees: Don Flynt, Paul Ripchick, Janet Grey, Kathy Kalish, Sheila Krupski, Jane Stephan, Dawn Huestis, Michelle Thomas, Patricia Kopchick, Liz Utzig, Katie Whittemore, Katya Lapina, Catherine Coffey, Morgan Kruegler

Facilitator: Patricia Kopchick

Mr. Flynt recapped Code of Conduct, Agenda template, and said that Sherri would email HS Partnership Team Rules (from Pat Stone).

Communication:

Liz Utzig suggested we use a room with an Eiki. Paul Ripchick will investigate the availability of Room 100.

The question was asked, "How do team members share information Partnership Team Information with their constituent groups?"

Catherine Coffey responded that the student reps. report to Student Senate. Student Senate Reps. then go to homerooms and inform students about "what is happening", and also attempt to get feedback on issues from the student body.

Kathy Kalish said that she talks to people she knows, but feels that this is inadequate.

A conversation ensued about the ways information is distributed, how and where to get information. etc. ~ Parent Portal ~ District Website, HS Webpage ~

It was noted that not all families have computers and/or access to the Internet.

Not everyone knows how to "use" the district webpage; some information may be over-looked by students and/or parents.

Mr. Flynt discussed "e-communication" and the need to be progressive and "part of the 21st century". Mr. Flynt also made the point that since "going electronic" there has been about a 6% drop in attendance to Open House over the last 4 years.

Sheila Krupski suggested a letter or page in the district calendar to inform parents on *how to communicate*. A conversation ensued about the possibility of a sub committee on communication; parents Kathy and Sheila and student Morgan agreed to serve.

Paul Ripchick suggested that parents could be surveyed via Portal. Comment was made that the parents who lack the information are probably not using the Portal.

Jane suggested we "parking lot" the discussion of communication to keep to the agenda.

Binders:

Dawn Heustis compiled data and created binders for all members of the Partnership Team.

These will be used to collect materials and be passed on to future members. **Patricia Kopchick** thanked Dawn on behalf of the team and thanked Kathy for the great pie/ice cream.

Mission Statement:

Paul: The Mission Statement is displayed in both buildings.

Don: Now that the Mission Statement is displayed how do we all implement the philosophy? (admin/students/fac/staff/parents)

Paul: Possibly take pieces of the statement and embrace in an annual project?

Student Rep: Possibly model the Green and White Awards?

Katie Whittemore: Senior Mentors are great in homerooms discussing information. They would be great in sharing the Mission Statement Message.

Paul suggested the possibility of a historical research project of the school. Senior Mentors could discuss this in homerooms. Paul noted (as an example) that the current president of Trustco Bank is a Shen grad.

Kathy: thinks the Mission Statement should be more visible on the Partnership Teams correspondence. **Sheila** suggested the possibility of the Mission Statement being displayed in conference rooms and classrooms.

Don: location for Art Showcase will be more visible. It will be out of back hallway.

Liz discussed a showcase or display area for academic class projects. **Don** said the National Honor Society has a showcase. **Michelle Thomas** stated that both libraries are willing to display class projects space permitting.

Janet Grey asked that team members receive a Profile of a Shen Graduate for our binders.

3:40 Jess Salmon arrived to discuss Partnership Team Website. It was last updated in 2001. Jess said she was thinking of adding a link for Partnership Team on the left side of the HS webpage. There is/was a yahoo email address. There was much conversation regarding who would filter questions, answer questions, etc. The Grapevine was suggested, enlisting the help of Kelly DeFeciani, etc. As the discussion progressed, the possibility of obtaining a dedicated **shenet** address, i.e. (hspt@shenet.org) was suggested. This would allow for correspondence directly from student/parents, etc. to the Partnership Team. Jess is going to investigate and report back to Partnership Team. The team meeting minutes could be emailed to Jess, she would upload them to the site.

3:55 Kristen Giudici arrived to discuss the Senior Class Veteran's Day Project, which was developed by Donna Lynch and Lisa Kissinger. Chris Guba's class will build a showcase. It will have three sections: Country/Community/School. Student Senate is paying for glass; VFW is paying for plaque; Precision Glass will install. It will be located near the Satellite Café. Possible speakers for Veteran's Day Project (November 10th) are Congressman Scott Murphy and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Time: 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance would be said, the Carillon Bells rung, The American Legion would present colors, a poem would be read. The speakers would have time constraints. A Proud to be an American slide-show will be accompanied by Lee Greenwood's song of the same title. The military would be represented from 1950 – present. All of Donna Lynch's classes would participate as well as Mrs. Mills periods 1 and 2, Ms. Evanoff per. 1 and 2, Ms. Visser per. 2 classes.

When we resumed our discussion on communication, the team voted to raise hands before speaking.

Suggestions made for disseminating Partnership Information include:

- class for parents to learn how to navigate district website, HS website, Parent Portal, etc.
- students email on behalf of parents
- dedicated email address for Partnership Team
- calendar

Discussion ensued regarding calendar. **Janet** said that Kelly DeFeciani collects the information for the district calendar. It's hard to read, fonts are too small, and colors are hard to read. The question came up if different schools/grades could have different colors? **Kathy** said the print job could only be two colors (based on pricing).

Janet asked what publications/mailers parents receive. **Morgan** said some things go to the students in homeroom, i.e. schedules. **Catherine** stated that kids don't share everything with parents, especially things that may be negative (for themselves).

Katie likes the "Budget Vote Signs". Thought they might be a good way to get information out. A short discussion took place regarding lighted signage/marquees, etc. Price is a factor. If such signage were to be installed at campus entrances, whose information would be on it?

4:25 Janet brought up a parent question regarding some teachers limiting restroom use by students.

Student reps agreed that this happens. **Dawn** asked if this could be addressed at a faculty meeting; **Paul** explained "teacher discretion" in determining classroom rules. **Katya** said that many students don't have time between classes (distance from one class to another), during lunch it's very crowded and students are forced to choose which class is better to miss class time from in order to use the restroom.

Katie W. hoped that teachers are reasonable but that a parent may need to call the teacher if there is a problem.

Agenda items for 11/2:

- **meeting in room w/Eiki**
- **check out website with Jess Salmon**
- **parent/student sub committee on communication**
- **Janet Grey will speak to Kelly D. regarding calendar**
- **signs for road**
- **Mission Statement Project ideas**

Roles for 11/2 Meeting:

Kathy - Party Animal.

Don/Paul - Develop Agenda

Darrah - Recorder

Katie - Facilitator

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Thomas