

Shenendehowa High School Partnership Team

March 22, 2010 3:00pm in Little Theatre and Room 100

Attendees: Janet Grey, Don Flynt, Paul Ripchik, Kathy Kalish, Dawn Huestis, Pat Kopchick, Catherine Coffey, Katya Lapina, Joan McGee, Shelia Krupski, Michelle Thomas, Morgan Kruegler, Liz Utzig,

Facilitator: Sheila Krupski

Time Keeper: Catherine Coffey

Mission Possible Awards Given In Little Theatre:

- Carolyn Eckles, Terry Mastrianni, Carol Ann O'Toole, Karen Boynton, Zofia Dross were nominated for living out the principles in their daily interactions with others. Most recently, they worked cooperatively with colleagues to assist a student with disabilities awaiting a one-to-one aide. Next, they helped the aide get acclimated to her new position. This dedicated team of professionals helped to do this without disrupting the routine of the student.
- Nancy Brouwer was nominated for living out these principles in her daily interactions with others, most recently when diligently working to arrange schedules and find substitutes for special education aides that normally would not be needed. Nancy has gone above and beyond, unfaltering, even at times when there was a lack of communication.
- Don thanked Dawn Heustis for creating the award prototypes and sending them to our team for voting and feedback!

Electronics Committee:

- Morgan had an incident last week where her mom squeezed in a medical appt. and when called Attendance to ask them to call her in class was told they were very busy. Attendance told her mom to just text her. However, in the end they did call her down.
- Another Capital Region high school called Paul to ask Shen's policy as they were looking at the same issue; our team should be aware that we're going to be watched by other districts as "21st century skills"
- Sheila asked what qualifies cell usage as a "21st century skill," it takes a few seconds
- Janet talked with several students since last meeting, would team support allowing them to use cell during their lunch period—just as team last time supported use of iPods
- Liz cited use of iPods moving from "at teacher's discretion" in study hall, to migrate out into the hallways and now here we are discussing the next step because "not enforceable"
- Don clarified that use in study halls was to keep students focused
- Janet said the board is interested in hearing this committee's recommendation; she personally suggests adding wording to the effect "to be further reviewed" for when iPads and other new technology emerges; don't make it so restrictive that we have to revisit; even acknowledge the fact we have no idea what might come 6 months from now

- Catherine doesn't see a tidal wave of change coming, because those who aren't using won't suddenly start texting; an important thing to focus on is how are we going to enforce it?
- Don said heard at Speak Out that consequences of using it when not permitted, then we're going to take it; yes, teachers would continue to set policy in their own classroom
- Joan said lunches run nearly half the day, do the students think that will enable more to legally text friends who are now texting friends who are in the classroom?
- The three students said no, it wouldn't change the volume of usage by those not texting now
- Kathy said time management skills tell you to focus on the task-at-hand and let the call/text go to voicemail and get it later
- Students clarified they would consider texting at lunch if now permitted which went back to the big picture: students who follow the rules now, may decide to do so too
- Liz said monitoring/policing use of cell phones in class adds another competing demand to teacher's delivering curriculum while being aware of the needs of the students in regards to the curriculum before adding the layer of monitoring electronic devices in a way that doesn't offend the student but gets the message across "I see what you're doing, get back on task please."
- The team came back around to "How do you enforce this?"
- Joan said a lot of kids have cell phones on in class, but they still have them
- Catherine said likes the idea of put on desktop and put turning off
- Janet said she and Kathy have talked about the societal influence of expecting instant gratification
- Team laughed recalling the old "smoking in the bathroom" rule breakers which then became create smoking zones outside to keep the bathrooms clean
- More discussion and cross discussion.....
- Read back the notes from 3/8 meeting: "Matt gave the HSPT a recommendation from the electronic committee that electronic devices be used before 7:40 and then no use at all from 7:40 a.m. to 2:40 p.m."
- Recap of HSPT consensus from 3/8 meeting where vote approved use of iPods before 7:40 and during lunch
- Took a vote for allowing cell phones in the cafeteria during lunch periods: 9 Yes and 2 No
- Rationale for HSPT's decision on electronic devices? "There were a number of reasons."
- When will the revised policy be announced? Don said administration will discuss timing.
- Next time HSPT will discuss how to evaluate the trial period

Debrief on 2010 Dodgeball Tournament's Impact:

- Catherine said Dodgeball tradition started with Suburban Leadership Council (16 schools); event has helped school spirit (teachers, staff, students rally together); event progressively gotten larger (41 this year) because of the demand and has always been approved; Senate approached adults to chaperone handball and sometimes they said "Can't, but be sure you come back and ask me to chaperone Dodgeball."
- Hannah's Hope received \$5,000+
- Don and Paul did debrief for next year; some of the ratcheting up might be lessened by continuing to screen the team's names AS WELL AS, the "player's name." Some were showing up with inappropriate names and were asked to turn in the t-shirts at that point.

Next Meeting 4/19/10 agenda topics:

- Trial period details for change to electronic usage policy
- Evaluation of this year's HSPT Goals and Processes
- Change in policy for P.E. game day
- Update on district's partnership meeting