

Shenendehowa High School Partnership Team

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2009 @ 3:05 in Room 100

Attendees: Janet Grey, Don Flynt, Paul Ripchik, Kathy Kalish, Dawn Huestis, Liz Utzig, Pat Kopchick, Catherine Coffey, Katya Lapina, Morgan Kruegler

Facilitator: Morgan Kruegler

Traditions Council: The discussion continued about Traditions Council. It was suggested that club advisors would be a good resource to ask about what is done currently to keep track of events. Ms. Utzig questioned the benefit for people to be part of Traditions Council. Mr. Ripchick remarked that he could see benefit in the suggestion given of keeping a vault of binders from each club and/or event i.e. a Respect binder. There is value to having a culture audit of the school, he observed, if school spirit is dying perhaps Traditions Council would be the organization which could help. He added that he could see it being led by either a teacher group or a student group. Ms. Utzig playing devils advocate, again asked what is in it for a teacher to be on Traditions Council.

When asked his opinion, Mr. Flynt said that if you get a group of people who each represent different constituencies of the school it would be a good thing. He expressed an interest in the evaluative aspect that could be worthwhile. Ms. Utzig pointed out the similarities between Respect Day and the new ShenSational event that they are starting up, and asked who, if anyone, is evaluating it and is there any synergy between the two events. Mrs. Gray said she believes we should be evaluating things. Just because we do one thing once shouldn't mean that it automatically becomes tradition, and therefore, we have to do it again, citing the sports bras as homecoming attire and the resulting argument for continuing it that "it is tradition." Phi Day was also used as an example. Morgan suggested that if Traditions Council is responsible for evaluating events, perhaps event organizers could fill out an evaluation and then present their feedback and why they feel the event is important.

Ms. Kopchick said she would be hesitant to subscribe to a culture, which evaluates everything and gets rid of the fun in school activities. She said that it is important to know that kids can learn while they are having fun and that learning goes way beyond just sitting in a desk with one teacher in front talking. Hopefully whoever is in charge of evaluating will keep in mind that kids learn in different ways thru a variety of activities, she remarked. Mr. Flynt said that having the teachers eating cream pie on the front page of the TU is not necessarily, what we want the community to see. There are a number of different perspectives, Ms. Utzig pointed out, saying that administrators see pieces that teachers don't see. She also said that from the evaluative perspective, the Traditions Council could find points on the profile of a Shen graduate that will support specific aspects of events.

Mrs Gray said maybe the way we are presenting needs to change. Mr. Ripchik asked for and received a consensus in order to continue discussing Traditions Council. Ms. Utzig said that just changing the focus of the council towards being an evaluative body has changed the importance of it for her.

Morgan asked for clarification, “Are we fixing it or nixing it?” Consensus was to fix it. Mr. Ripchik said he would take on the organization of Traditions Council if he can get a student and teacher to help. He asked if he could move forward on the research aspect of the Traditions Council now, which is to include the history of school events. The Traditions Council would be comprised of support staff, faculty, professional, parents and alumni (which could be part of another group as well). Mr. Ripchik asked for one name from each group who would be interested in working on the council. He would come back to the partnership team at the end of the year for some feedback and to decide where we want to go with it from here.

Mission (Im)Possible Program:

Mr. Flynt said he doesn’t care what the program is named. The idea was not to embarrass people but to pick a venue where there are enough people to make recognition worthwhile. He also said that there may actually be a group of people to recognize at times, not just a few. Mr. Flynt explained again where the idea of recognizing people at sporting events came from - that at every time out at a Notre Dame football game someone was recognized. There was further discussion about venues for recognition – sporting events, march madness, morning announcements. Mr. Flynt said his concern is that we do it, not necessarily what venue we use, because he doesn’t think we highlight the good things that are being done by students and staff enough.

Ms. Kopchik said that at Shen sporting events reign supreme and they shouldn’t just be used to recognize people. Ms. Utzig said she thought March Madness was a very successful program for recognizing students.

The discussion ended with the suggestion that we all come back next meeting with ideas about what the nomination process should be.

Update on Signs:

It was agreed that we need to be able to secure the sign. Mr. Ripchik was unable to talk to security about the details of doing so prior to the meeting, but will do so before the next meeting. Katja reported that Senate liked the idea of a sign of a person grabbing attention, it would be noticeable and not as expensive as a built-in LED sign. Mr. Ripchik asked if we are in agreement to pursue this formally. At this point, we have one vendor giving a price of \$3,500 for a 4’ by 10’ sign mounted to a trailer that would be hitched to a vehicle to move it.

First thing would be to look for ways of funding it, with suggestions to check with the PTSA, Senate, a class gift or some kind of fundraiser. There was a suggestion that the Technology Club might be able to produce the smaller sign which would be changeable. Ms Huestis suggested we should move forward with it, which was agreed upon by the team. It was decided to concentrate first on the funding, than decide on how it will look.

Debriefing and Code of Conduct

The Technology Committee, chaired by Mr. Heckman and Mr Beson, is addressing headphone/cell phone issues, and has started with surveying faculty on their thoughts about headphones. Some schools have phone zones. Some have common areas for headphones. On the positive side if there was a zone or area, it makes it easier to ask students to step out of the way of traffic. Ms. Utzig said everyone checks his or her texts on the back corridor with headphones on, particularly since there is no monitoring in that area. In answer to one

suggestion to make it harder to get signal in non-signal areas, Mr. Flynt responded that it is illegal to block cell phone signals. The Technology committee is supposed to wrap up their recommendations by end of January.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Nomination ideas for Mission Possible Program.

Names submitted for Traditions Council.

Next meeting will be **Monday, January 11 at 3 p.m. room 100.**

Timekeeper: Ms. McGee

Facilitator: Catherine

Reporter: Parent rep

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Kalish