

# SIT November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

## Notes

SIT members: Present. Kaitlyn C., Jilliam C. , Paige D., Karen Ferradino, Helena Grossman, Chris Homer, Olivia H., Judy Innella, Amanda L., Jay Matuk , Joseph Monastero, Allie P., Avery P. Anabela Rivadeneira, Tricia Sihksnel, and Matt Sneider, Marie Strunk. Stephanie DiNozzi, Beth Packert. Absent: Joyce Schmieder

Guest. Ms. Velez – School Social Worker

Next SIT meeting 2:40 12/7/2015

Attendance was taken – Meeting started at 2:48 PM

- The Notes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved with minor adjustments. They will be posted to the SIT webpage.
- Ms. Grossman – reviewed with the SIT why Ms. Velez is attending as our guest.
  - Ms. Velez – Discussed that she meet with Dr. Moss regarding the Peer Mentoring program that runs at the elementary buildings
  - Ms. Velez is working on making a program for students who are good role models and will help other students.
  - Some proposed details of the program:
    - Students will have bracelets that they will ware indicating to all that they are Mentors (Jr. Helper) to help students.
    - If something serious occurs with a student, the adult advisors would be informed or step in to assist students.
    - Question “Is there a Jr. Natural helpers program”.
      - Answer “There is not.”
    - The goals of the program is to have an identified group of students and advisors to assist students and provide resources to all students who need them.
    - How will the students be selected
      - Possibly by teacher selections
      - Students will have input who participates in the program
      - The program may run quarterly allowing many students participate and become leaders
      - At the High School, students vote for who are the helpers and this data is used in the selection of the participants.
      - Students in the Jr High program, may, as they get older, move into the High School Natural Helpers program

- Asked if any of the student's present participated in the HS program and two did. They enjoyed the program. All the student SIT members felt that this will be great program.
- Other ways discussed by the team to get students involved, elections, student input and Staff input.
- The High School does not have a current method to identify students are part of the program (i.e. bracelets.)
  - They are looking to have a method of identification.
- The High School program is looking to have a way to have face to face methods to get the program to run. The bracelets looks like the best way according to Mr. Homer (Peer Mentor Program)
- The Nest is now open after school every day till 4 PM
- Mr. Homer feels that the student's need to be careful in selecting students joining the mentors program so they have a well-rounded group. In the past, student's meet only with the student who they voted for to be a Peer Mentor.
  - Mr. Homer and Ms. Halloran reviewed the new students to the school investigating who is involved with their classmates and who is not. They are now pairing new students to have buddy classmates.
- In 2 weeks, the Peer Mentors will have a meeting where 55 students are signed up to participate in
  - During the meeting/training various scenarios are reviewed and how the student mentors need to react.
  - Discussion about identifying specific students in need occur
  - A task of the natural helpers is to go and interact with students who are alone during the day.
  - Once a member, always a member, unless they want out of the program
  - The SIT students who are part of natural helpers were very positive of their experiences.
    - Very positive experiences were shared with the SIT.
    - Students are required to sit with students who they don't know during lunch and free periods.
  - **GOAL:** investigate the creation of a 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade club that replicates many of the goals of the High School Natural Helpers program. Voted upon, and approved.
  - Ms. Velez left to the nest.
- More goals
  - **Club Fair**
    - Possible methods were discusses
    - Video recording for the web on what the goal of each club is

- (public service announcements or PSA) and have a webpage to locate these videos.
  - During lunch periods possibly conduct a fair for students informing them of the goals of each club
  - Back to school night – have club tables to inform the parents in the café.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> into 7<sup>th</sup> grade meeting in May – have club tables to inform the parents of each club
  - Club night – in late September for parents and students ...
    - Then clubs meet after the fair segment
  - In the Fieldhouse have all the clubs meet for students and parents
  - This will become an administrative goal (Mr. Matuk and Mr. Monastero)
  - Question, what is the issue who does not know of the clubs, many felt that the issue is with the parents not the students. We all agree making sure the 7<sup>th</sup> graders know what the clubs are about.
- Fall pep rally
  - Activities during lunch periods for students to participate in occurred for the first time this year
    - The winners represented their class during the fall pep rally
    - Many students and staff participated in the events
  - Pasta night
    - Class bulletin boards were created for each grade and shown around the building
      - Students were very involved in creating the boards
  - The spring pep rally will continue with similar and varied activities.
- The fall pep rally was the most interactive one to date.
  - The event was not about athletes it was about students.
- Examples of what other school have done in the past as pep days was discussed.
- Student council Graduation (2 teachers spoke to the Student Government about gender and robe color)
  - Boys and Girls currently wear a color that specifies their gender
  - Some feel that students in the past may have felt weird that they were required to wear a specific color of robe indicating a gender when they don't conform to a gender.
  - Student Government is making a document and having poll run by the senior class on the topic.
  - There are many opinions on the matter.
  - Other students also mentioned that students wearing NHS and Honor Society clothing further divided the class.
  - Further discussion occurred.
  - The Government students will present their findings at the next SIT meeting
- Meeting ended at 4:15

- Submitted By Joe Monastero SIT secretary