

SIT Notes- Monday, September 26th 2016

Members Present:

- Jordy B., Jillian C., Alexandra G., Olivia H., Judy Innella, Meryl Landau, Amanda L., Jay Matuk, Sheila Mauriello, Joe Monastero, Mackenzie M., Beth Packert, Ally P., Avery Pusey, Ginette R., Anabela Rivadeneira, Trish Sihksnel, Matt Sneider, Marie Strunk, Alyssa T., Alexandra V.

Absent Members:

- Paige D. Stephanie DiNozzi, Helena Grossman, Amanda L.

2:45 start time:

- Introduction of committee
- Mr. Matuk distributed the agenda for the day
- Mr. Matuk explained how one of the goals of the 2015-2016 year was to open up the SIT Committee to additional students in both 7th and 11th grade. Moving forward, we will have a basis of students who are familiar with SIT and how the Committee operates
- 6 parents, 11 students, 2 administrators and 5 parents will compose the SIT committee this year
- Mr. Matuk reminded us of the importance of arriving on time and in the event of an absence, prior notification if possible via the SIT email list

Responsibilities of SIT

- School culture, scheduling, staff and safety- there is not a budget (important to note) for the SIT Committee
- Staffing issues cannot be resolved via this committee- rather recommended to the Superintendent

Last Year Review

- Starting mid-October, there will be several periods a day where clubs are represented during lunch periods. Students will be able to speak with club advisors and members in order to choose a club that might meet their interests.
- Pep Rally Recap: The Pep Club instituted the making of a float and Spirit Week Games
- The Club/Activities Handbook has been updated and will be distributed at back to school night.
- Strength and conditioning after school: Mr. Bongino came to speak to us about the availability of workout equipment after school; the BOE will be having meetings (the first of which will be Tuesday, 9/27) in order to discuss the development of a Health and Wellness Facility. This will afford students the opportunity to come after school and exercise.
- Class Olympics: We would like to grow this program to some degree. There was discussion of possibly making a shortened school day- however, this cannot be done this year, as there has been a great amount of time allotted to Staff Development (for Canvas, the Chromebook initiative, Google Apps, etc.)

In the Upcoming Year:

- What would the students like to see happen this year? Mr. Matuk asked students on the Committee to offer up suggestions of what they would like to see happen
- Alexandra Visconti suggested that each class should wear a shirt during class Olympics. Mr. Matuk suggested that Alexandra attend a Student Government meeting in order to make this suggestion. Alexandra explained the class Olympics to new members of SIT
- Jordy Blau suggested that the class Olympics should be held right after school- Alexandra mentioned that this might be difficult for students on sport teams
- Ms. Sihksnel mentioned that coaches may be willing to cancel practice that day, with the consideration of playoff practices and games
- Mr. Bongino will be contacted to find out the school sports calendar, in consideration with the 'in-between' time.
- Mr. Sneider mentioned that teachers would be more apt to attend the Olympics if it were after school
- Avery Pusey suggested that if students understood the importance of winning for class money, they might be more inclined to attend. She mentioned that students did not understand how important it is to win the Olympics so their grade can earn money for prom. Instead, a pizza party might provide some incentive for students to attend.
- Mrs. Strunk mentioned the issue of students not having access to announcements. She offered a new outlook to 'homeroom' - a core system where students have the same group throughout the four years of school.
- Mr. Matuk and Mr. Monastero mentioned that they agree this is an excellent idea- it needs to be, however, a small (reasonable) number of kids to be effective- it should NOT be a glorified homeroom, but a place where kids can meet and bond. It was able to nip problems in the bud, get a feel for how kids felt before they began their day; the reason it works in very few schools because it was a contractual, built in component to the day. The concept exists, and the school is built around it. In order to implement it here, there would not be enough places/staff for this to happen (in small enough groups for it to be effective). This would require us to begin school approximately 20 minutes earlier, and seniors would not be able to have their late arrival privilege. We will explore the opportunity to use Canvas as a means to send push notifications.
- Mr. Matuk asked Ms. Landau and Ms. Mauriello if their schools had a SIT Committee- their respective schools did have them.
- Mrs. Packert mentioned a bullying issue about what a bullying issue that occurred over the weekend- she questioned if students can recognize when they are being bullied, and also for those being bullied, do they know where they can turn if they feel they are a victim? Mr. Sneider mentioned that on student handbook day, there is a portion of the handbook that reviews this material. Mr. Matuk also mentioned that there was an update on how to create an environment that fosters the reduction of bullying instances – including faculty AND staff.
- Alexandra Visconti mentioned that Mr. Homer reminds students that he has every single student that comes through the school- also, the presence of Natural Helpers- and Challenge Day
- Jordy Blau mentioned how there is usually an assembly on texting and bullying that addresses this- Mr. Monastero mentioned how there is a push in program that he and Ms. Velez implements
- Mr. Monastero and Mr. Matuk mentioned that all information- even that posted on a forum such as CSH Moms, be brought to the attention of administration immediately so that it

might be appropriately dealt with. Mr. Matuk called on parents to voice their concerns and to also contest that their past concerns have been addressed.

- The SIT decided to postpone elections until the next meeting so that seniors and absentee parents are able to run if they so desire.
- Alexandra Visconti mentioned that it may be difficult for some students to talk to their advisors and counselors because they are an adult figure in the school. She suggested that upperclassman are available for confidential purposes, which relates to Natural Helpers, which seeks to address this program.
- Mr. Matuk explained the process of becoming a Natural Helper and the training they receive
- Alexandra mentioned how maybe they should have photos of the members on a board
- Mr. Matuk mentioned how there are specific numbers in the back of the handbook that was printed this year for the first time, with a good amount of outreach
- Mr. Matuk asked that everyone think about potential goals for how things could be
- Meeting adjourned at 3:40