Menlo-Atherton High School
Shared Decision-Making Site Council

Approved Minutes on Apr 14, 2022
March 10, 2022

Opening
The regular meeting of the SDMSC was called to order at 3:30pm

Members Present: *G or Mimi can fill this out*
John Giambruno, Michelle Breen, Anton Gerth, Claire Auslander, Derrick Gomez, Devin Leslie, Emily Rigotti, Florence Tubiana, Silvia Torres, Tricia Barr, Zahara Agarwal, Valeria Lorenzo, Stephen Ready, Shionda Nickerson, Shepard, Sarah Frivold, Pamela Wimberly, Mallory Byrne, Lena Chane, Jennifer Hettle, Karl Loskoot.

Approval of 02/10/22 minutes:

Motion to Approve from: John Giambruno
Seconded by: Anton Gerth
Approved by: 20
Opposed by: 0
Abstention by: 3

A. Open Forum

- Masks - Board Meeting announced that masks will be "strongly recommended" starting Monday 3/14/2022
    - Lena- heard through kids that some teachers have expressed being uncomfortable with this decision and might not be at work because of this. Is this hearsay? If there's a cold going around, are the Covid policies going to be changing given that without masks it's likely to spread more?
    - Karl- We still want to stick to the mitigation measures that have helped us to keep Covid as in check as possible, so we will still be asking people to continue to stay home and get tested if they're experiencing symptoms.
    - What happens if teachers start calling out sick because they're uncomfortable with the mandate change?
        - Karl- If someone is feeling high anxiety over the change, we would typically have a meeting with that person. If they need to take leave of absence until things calm down, we would strategize to find a substitute in

the meantime. If it's a huge sick out, then it becomes a District Union type of negotiation.
    - Teachers making students feel guilty for not wearing their masks?
        - Karl- This is one of the ways we need to respect each other's differences, choices, anxieties, and lived experiences.
    - Michele- Talking points they're planning on doing with their classes? Students are feeling anxious as well about sitting next to someone. How do we build that community in the classroom?
    - Karl- At some point the county will move from strongly recommended to recommended to optional. We want to stay away from requiring it in the classroom because it's not the state and county guidelines.
    - Tricia- California Department of Public Health defines strongly recommend as everyone should wear a mask but no policing (I think this was the guidance MPCSD gave, but if I said CA Dept of Public Health had this as a definition (I don't remember if I did or not) then I would have said that after looking it up)
    - Are we allowed to keep students who are wearing masks to sit with students who are wearing masks and unmasked students sit together because I can see students feeling uncomfortable around students who are unmasked.
        - Karl- We want to avoid separating students and emphasize mitigation measures in place.
    - Byrne- What if students express that they're anxious about sitting with unmasked students? I should still sit them around an unmasked student? Can I put a survey out to ask about how they feel about sitting next to unmasked people?
    - Karl- On an individual basis, you can sit the student by the door or in front of the class, but we don't want to separate students by groups. Be careful to frame the survey in a way that it's respectful and not fostering negative feelings towards people who aren't wearing a mask.
    - What about someone with an autoimmune disorder?
    - Karl- request everyone to maintain a distance so it's not unfair to one group of students
    - Clarification: masking is a medical decision between parents and children? Are teachers, administrators, and other staff part of this guidance process?
        - Karl- it's our role to implement the guidance, which is to strongly recommend mask wearing, but not require or police it.
        - If there's a family or student not comfortable with a mixed mask environment, they have the option to request independent study.
- School formals - do we need to find a venue off campus that's more spacious?
    - Devin- MA gym is spacious, well lit, heated and offers decent outside space. It's also more inclusive and accessible to students than an outside venue might be.

B. WASC Updates from Visit

- Emily- the visit went great. We hosted 2 visitors who got to talk to department chairs after our staff meeting. The majority of the visit was visiting classes and some students, like Devin Leslie, were tour guides. Wasc visitors mainly wanted to talk to students so the mid cycle was really focused on that. He said they don't have much feedback for the school. We're going to continue to work on goals to support students. We won't see them again for 3 more years, when we have the big visit.

C. Bell Schedule Committee Updates

- After surveying students, parents and staff and meeting 3 times, it has come down to 2 possible schedules
    - One of the bigger issues: when does 0 period start? Leave it in the morning or push it to the afternoon?
        - Breakdown summary: There is a consistent preference seen from staff, students, parents, and student athletes: 0 period starts in the afternoon (making it a 7th period) and 1st period starts at 8:30am.
    - How are athletic teams going to practice? Will we accommode and have more kids taking a 7th period?
    - If we want 7th period to be a block period, Wednesdays will become odd days and Thursdays will become even.
        - 2 possible schedules for Thursday:
            - A: teacher meeting and prep in the morning (7:45-9:25am), later start for students (9:25am)
            - B: prep time in the morning (7:45am), earlier start for students (8:30am), have the staff meetings in the afternoon (2:25pm)
    - Additional survey with the schedule options will go out and Karl is hoping to finalize the decision by early April
    - Concerns:
        - Shionda- The traffic will be worse because the school will have similar a similar schedule to the start and end times that other nearby schools have
        - Pamela- PE, athletics, and 7th period going on at the same time. Will there be a lot of disruption to the program? Was told that PE will get priority, but that hasn't been the case in the past when there was a 7th period

D. Spring `22 Collaboration Applications and Approval

- Giambruno- asks staff to double check before we approve and greenlight people for the collaboration

- Who generates these? It's something external that starts at the department meetings and goes on from there.
- Michele- I think we need to take a look at the hours and what column it's going to

<u>Motion to approve the collaboration proposals for spring 2022 on the group summary tab</u>

Motion from: Michele Breen
Seconded by: Devin Leslie
Approved by: 21
Opposed by: 0
Abstention by: 1

E. Grades *(staff will likely want to read this portion)*

- Students are having different experiences depending on the teacher
  - Data from last year given as well
  - Data of racial/ethnic groups as percentages that was pulled out from the WASC report
  - Other focus groups taken from WASC data: SPED and EL students
  - This is for fall semester grades in December
    - Emily- keep in mind that this data is from fall semester, where we are coming back from distance learning, and is probably one of the most challenging semester we've had
    - G- we've gone up in As and we've gone down in Fs
  - Staff go into breakout rooms to discuss
- Giambruno- 2 things to hone out of this: is there any sort of guidance we can give to shape this semester to be better and is there anything we should look forward to next year as a plan of attack
- Mallory- multi tiered student support systems and what every student is supposed to get at level 1
  - Use an advisory period instead of flex time with 15-20 students per group so that they're doing social emotional learning and building community. The teacher can get progress report grades, quarter grades, semester grades and check in with those students and offer support. Our campus is so large, a lot of students just get lost
  - G/Emily- something similar was mentioned during the WASC visit: cohording small groups of 9th graders because of the 9th grade experience of classes
  - Tricia- this would be a good priority, especially for this years 10th grade class, they're not as connected as the other classes and need to build community and trust within the school and each other

    - Jennifer- Zen Den has done something similar and it's been effective for rapport building
    - Devin - letter grades mean different things for different classrooms, some are easy to earn an A and others are more difficult. What do these grades even mean? Need a shared definition of this.
        - G- unable to share this information, but there has been improvement on this over the last few years
    - Florence- teaching through zoom resulted in prioritizing the curriculum for what we thought was important given the minimum time. We still see discrepancy and structural issues within different racial groups in how prepared or not prepared they come to school and it's hard to catch up. They're not starting with the same elements to begin with.
    - Claire- is there a detailed breakdown of the data with respect to zip codes? Might be some overlap with race as well as support programs outside of M-A
        - White and Hispanic students have similar population size, but vary in total grades earned/class enrollment
        - Black student population is about 7% but earn the second most category of Fs
        - Homework center isn't being utilized as much as it could be- why? Is it not accessible due to bus scheduling? Are families able to provide support?
        - G- make note to put information for elementary schools. Disparities have been slowly improving
        - Michele- one student can have Fs for all their classes so they're hitting that one column multiple times
    - Tricia- attendance: layering it onto grades as well
        - Covid might make it harder to look at
- Shionda- how do we engage the students who are unengaged in the resources we already have? What are these barriers? Especially for kids who can't get help at home
- Computers are being used to be distracted and do work, best thing is to walk around and hover

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: Anton Gerth
Seconded by: Claire Auslander
Approved by: 18
Opposed by: 0
Abstention: 0