

Parent/Principal Advisory Council – 11/15/2023

All 7 parents present

Welcome from Principal Patt (PP)

Topics from Parents

- Other high schools organize college visits to UW schools – any reason we don't do that?
 - PP: Not sure if that was organized for all students or just AVID students. We do this for AVID students, visit multiple schools (i.e., Madison/Milwaukee/Whitewater) and take all juniors in spring to North HS for the College Fair, when all the UW schools are there.
- Counselors came up with it and funded it, there was one person that thought it'd be good for those students, so they did it independently. It's a weekend trip to all the UW campuses and they charter buses for however many students that want to go.
 - PP: I am open to new ideas and if this is something that people want to do, I'd be open to it.
- When are they going to repave and repaint the parking lot?
 - PP: We paint our own numbers on the parking spaces, it's a great way for National Honor Society students to get in volunteer hours. The parking lot itself was ground down and repaved about 12 years ago.
 - Agree that painting/lines/stripes are needed; however, when it is done we would need to completely revamp it so that we have one-way traffic and angled parking so that everyone backs into traffic the same way.
 - I'm not sure when this could happen and will try to remember to ask the question, continue to bring that up in facilities meetings, and if I get an ETA will pass it along!
- Comment received from older gentleman that he's never coming to another game again because there are no railings on the bleachers – difficult to get up and deal with seating
 - PP: Because of when our bleachers were built, they were grandfathered in and don't have to be ADA compliant. To add in railings, the whole thing would need to be retrofitted and I'm not sure if that's possible. It would probably save \$100,000 to just redo them
 - We could investigate making a handicapped section with chairs and/or designate that lower area as that type of section
 - South is getting new bleachers soon and there's are older than ours
 - We got new ones in the fieldhouse
 - Will bring that up during facilities meeting because we got complaints about fieldhouse and that let them know and it ended up getting fixed
 - School district would need to pay for them – it'd probably cost a million dollars
 - Storage is an issue – tons of things underneath and above it and it'd be nice if you could build storage and ramps and such and upgrade to get these done ... adds to ability to best use space
 - We would want something like what Kettle Moraine has now, which was funded partially by Culvers in that area
 - We would also be sure to flip sides of the field so that West fans aren't staring at the sun as it sets
 - Athletics boosters are always working through things and trying to generate revenue and help it grow so that we aren't always having to ask for money for everything
 - Westapalooza – purpose is projects and what we are hoping to make happen
 - Investigated a large screen project – big screen on other end of football field ... students create content, graphics and digital design students, movie nights available, advertising for that would have paid for the TV within 5 years have and then just kept on generating income for the school. Price tag was \$380,000 but there was no guarantee we would be able to get the advertisers and without any collateral, it's difficult to get a loan.

- Digital program – lacking pro-create software ... only a couple hundred dollars to invest in getting them enough to get licenses, what would it take to make that happen?
 - PP: Had a meeting this week with Steve Schlomann & the teachers ... in the works now to get that done
 - Upgraded software and hardware
 - Looking at redesign for classrooms as well
 - Illustration component with art classes and digital artwork with them
 - Graphics courses more focused on page layout and font design and such
 - Actively looked at as of today
- Reason why West Café can't use lunch account for those purchases?
 - PP: It's a completely different process and system, like concessions at a game
 - Can't cook/prepare food
 - Creating some tardiness right now, looking at implementing the need to pre-order so it's ready to go in between classes instead of having to wait for it after ordering
 - It used to be cash only and it wasn't utilized much, we switched this year to being able to use ApplePay/debit cards and its popularity and use has exploded

PP Topic – AB Block Schedule

- Board presentation – talked to some kid groups here, student council went to Pewaukee and were indifferent on switching
- Pewaukee students talked to extensively – true they don't know any different, but they love it
- We are set up to do this is differently than instruction in the past – will not be sitting in a classroom for 90 minutes and getting lectured at
- Goal in every classroom is to 'catch and release' – catch to focus students and instruct, then release for them to collaborate and socialize, then catch again and get back to instruction, then release to work/move/etc.
- Different classes every day – can break it up
 - Parent: Any thought that it'll affect the amount of homework?
 - PP: Potentially. Often, if instructors really look at what they use their time for, they can plan differently. You can maybe have 4 problems instead of 7 because you'll challenge students more and the pace will need to be maintained
 - Pewaukee doesn't have a ton of homework
 - Not sure how much your students are getting now. Anticipate maybe there'll be less homework, though not sure if it'll be right away.
 - AP classes certainly tend to be more homework heavy, now it's everyday vs next year you'll be able to space it out some
 - Overall, should be a feeling of less stress
 - Parent: Intentionality – ensuring it's not just sitting and being lectured at – what's going into the planning now for lessons
 - PP: Pacing is already there with the new curriculum and we have resources from Agile Mind to help teachers adjust pacing if needed
 - Tomorrow the principals are meeting with content coordinators to help adjust and start getting these things done – we have a plan in place
 - Parent: Did it get approved?

- PP: Yes. I pushed for JIT to be at the beginning of the day, but it will be at end of day. Current plan is to dismiss all Juniors and Seniors in good standing with release for JIT, Freshman and Sophomores are required to stay.
- Pewaukee requires everyone to be there for their Excellence time (what we call JIT), but kids could choose what they wanted to do
- Will still have structure and homeroom
- Possibly all students granted release at 2:30 on Fridays so there's time for teachers
- Parent: Are staff all still available for all the rest of the kids that don't go home?
 - PP: Yes, and for any Jr/Sr that need/want it
 - Ideally, this will just give smaller numbers for JIT
- Parent: Any concern kids may leave even if they aren't in good standing?
 - PP: Attendance will be taken, just like it is now, and kids that are going to skip, are going to skip no matter what and will get consequences to deter them from doing it again
 - Other schools that have more attendance issues than we do wanted this, and it is what it is
- Parent: What is required to be considered in good standing?
 - PP: Whatever's on the Release form currently – combination of academics and behavior
 - We may need to be more clear next year, and possibly stricter, and parents must approve it
- Parent: What if they have something after school?
 - PP: Can't select where they want to go currently, that will change this going forward – reading/science lab, individual teachers can still call them in
 - ACT prep will also be offered
 - If they have release, they are expected to leave the building – can't just wander the halls because they are on release
- Parent: Homeroom/JIT sometimes a switcheroo currently – how will that work going forward?
 - PP: Homeroom on Monday, same time for all students at the end of day, ACP lessons like today, no one would get released
 - 3 JIT days all week
- Parent: If approved for early release, do they have to leave all three days all the time or could you choose to stay with a teacher? Is it all or nothing?
 - PP: If they're in a supervised location, I'm fine it, we'll probably need to talk more about it before everything is finalized
 - We can look at the possibility to placing more students in larger spaces, if needed, like the library or be with a teacher or in the auditorium
 - Would need to be very clear on expectations

- Many athletes leave early all the time at all grade levels because of bussing issues – don't see it as an issue going forward especially because quite often, they'll miss less class time and get more of a partial class time in because of the block and won't always miss the same class
- Parent: Will this be implemented next school year?
 - PP: Yes
 - We've thought about doing a pilot – maybe take a week here and preview it and let you know what we're doing
 - Parent: Highly recommend NOT doing that unless you have it organized beautifully and you have the most fantastic, amazing lesson plans **ever** to really give a good impression – it's better to just rip the band-aid off and have everyone going through it for the first time together next year
- Parent: What's communication plan for parents?
 - PP: Don't have all the details finalized – when we get that, we'll pass it along and figure out correspondence
 - Trickle down through groups and we'll keep working on it
- Parent: It'd be cool to have some listening sessions, not necessarily with a talk back option but just a presentation about everything. An email probably won't suffice.
 - PP: We are working on creating an FAQ document that will include information on how to ask questions
- Parent: Will that come out before registration?
 - PP: My hope is that we get it done this month and have things out by January so it's ready before scheduling comes up, to be sure they can pick classes appropriately
- Parent: Will this be mentioned during Welcome to West day?
 - PP: Yes, I will be talking about this during my presentation
- Parent: Still planning to mix lunches amongst all grade levels?
 - PP: May have some natural selection because of scheduling where we have some lunches heavier with one/two grade levels but will be intermixed
- Parent: Do all the staff know already?
 - PP: Yes, the presentation shared with them and lots of their feedback was utilized. They are looking forward to it overall, think it'll be a good opportunity.
- Parent: Generally, was this well accepted at the most recent school board meeting?
 - PP: Didn't really look at it but was approved unanimously. They like JIT at end of day
- Parent: Teacher training is one concern I've heard from community
 - PP: We are working on it and making professional development a top priority