

University High School Keystone Council Meeting

December 7th, 2011 Meeting Minutes

1:00pm Library Conference Room

In Attendance- Diane Walker, Andy Davis, Karen Valouche, Jeff Hill, Kim Rojas, Andrea Markert, Kate Pole, Courtney O'Connor, Dixie Lewis

Absent- Cory Culbertson, Steve Evans , Mark Feaster

Approval of Minutes- Discussion Items- change Freshmen Program to Non-tenured teachers. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

I. Informational Items

A. Diversity- Will meet next Thursday, December 15th.

B. Student Conduct- Will meet in February.

C. Technology- 22 faculty members are currently working on ipads to evaluate them for instructional value. Questions came up about all Metcalf teachers receiving ipads. U-High teachers were identified by Jeff and the Technology committee to compare netbooks to ipads.

D. School Development-

1. Assessment- Faculty was informed at the faculty meeting that the assessment subcommittee is looking at current juniors that did not meet the benchmarks on the PLAN test, and how that is impacting them this year.
2. Student Support- Teachers have been giving Andrea names of students for both the social and the motivational groups.
3. Essential Qualities- The idea of having teachers serve as student mentors was discussed. Seniors would probably require the most work. Freshmen teachers would work with just freshmen, and all other teachers would work with students starting as a sophomore and stay with them through their senior year. What would we like the outcomes to be? Structural issues would come underneath the outcomes. Idea is to have students revisit the qualities every year. We want students to reflect on their qualities, but they may need help with that.

E. Shared Governance- Goal is to encourage faculty to participate in committees. Diane met with new faculty and encouraged them to get on board with committees. Many of them are on the assessment or technology subcommittee.

- F. Clinical experiences- NCATE will visit in April, and they will want to see connection with the Democratic Ideal Theoretical Framework. They will have some materials to distribute to faculty on how to do that.
- G. Co-Curricular- Waiting on change of IHSA eligibility rule.

II. Discussion Items

- A. New course proposals- School development received proposals for a new math course. Right now Adv. Math Topics/AP Stats are serving two sets of students. They want to divide up those students. The Technology Department wants to offer a new course in Technology Topics. Based on the course description they are not sure of the difference between that course and Technology History. The Technology Department also proposed an Intro. to Agriculture course, which could add value to our curriculum. The other course proposed by the Technology is AP Computer Programming, which would replace the current Computer Programming course, and would be a year long. Suggestion is to rotate those on a yearly basis. School development will recommend or not recommend.
- B. Abuse report policy- Everyone is a mandated reporter. If a teacher is aware of or suspects abuse, they need to talk with an administrator or a counselor. Then the teacher needs to call the DCFS hotline, and DCFS follows up with the student. DCFS will send the reporter a letter informing them if the report is “founded” or “unfounded”. DCFS will also tell the school if someone is removed from the home. They will take your name but to everyone else the call will be anonymous.
- C. Diane will create a survey to send to faculty based on teacher comments from the dinner break at Parent/Teacher Conferences in November.

III. Action

- A. Shared Governance- Changes were recommended to the essential school structures document. On page 13, Jeff stated that final recommendations will be made by the Superintendent. Discussed admissions and that U-High is supposed to reflect the diversity represented in the Bloomington/Normal area. Jeff likes to keep the admissions committee stagnant in order to keep the consistency, since admissions is such a sensitive topic.