

PAC – Parent Advisory Council

3-15-18

In Attendance: Mark Cappel, Elaine Kane, Mary Schell, Mike Bellm, Melissa Edwards, Laura Shansey, Susan Hatfield, Lola Mans, Melissa Batchelor, Jodie Eagleton, Kelly Davis, Linda Ollenbittle, LeAnn Varble, Ricardo Anderson, Leslie Rezabek, Dawn Humphrey and Staci Landuyt

Mr. Cappel introduced Mike Bellm and Melissa Edwards to discuss testing, finals and prom:

- AP testing and finals – AP courses are optional. If students are taking dual credit, they must take the final if that is the college's requirement. Finals depend on which class student's take and what the dual credit requirements are from that college. AP testing is nationwide and is a standardized test to which we cannot control the date. We have a specific counselor that works with the students taking the AP test/s.
- The theory behind having final exams - A teacher is going to cover certain curriculum and at the end of the semester we need to find out if we have taught what we said we would teach them and what the students have grasped at the end. It also prepares students for college as they will take finals after each semester. Tests throughout the year help us stay in front of learning concerns so we can go back and re-teach if we know where the weak areas are. Finals help us gear towards the next group of students. In doing our job, the summative information isn't just about the students, it is about an evaluation of our curriculum and our teaching.

Parent: Students that don't test well, what do you do with them?

Mr. Bellm stated that we try to give several tests; smaller quizzes, labs or papers to build that grade up.

Mrs. Kane added that there has been ample discussions in the math department this year on how to get better information along the way without a cumulative/summative test.

Short skill checks are being implemented in class to check skills.

- Mr. Bellm stated that he feels no testing should be occurring the last week before finals. We will talk to our teachers about not having those tests just before the final. We need to reserve that time for students to just grasp and review for finals. We are going to work to get streamlined as some teachers do practice that system already. Teachers are dedicated to get all those standards down and in a subject. If you don't get certain things taught in math, students won't be able to do Chemistry next year (as an example).

Parent Question regarding skyward- it appears that some teachers may be putting a zero in skyward between the time that the teacher received the test from the student and the time the teacher returns the test to the student. Mr. Bellm stated that there should not be any zeros given at that

time and he will give that directive to teachers. Mr. Bellm also urged parents reach out to him when you see things like this come up.

- Prom- We would like to move it from SIUE due to the travel for our students. Trying to look at LCCC, however, they focus on weddings in May. If we move prom back earlier in April, we will impede on MANY sporting events for students.
- Walk out day for gun control and Florida school shooting victims went well. It moved to be a very successful event.

Mary Schell- Student Handbook

- Mrs. Schell inquired if there were any recommended suggestions for the district handbook. *No suggestions were recommended. There were a few minor mandated changes and principal recommendations.*

Mark Cappel-

- Safety has been addressed in PAC before, however, to recap, it is our responsibility to do what we can, when we can, to make our schools safer. Lots of meetings have taken place on ways to making our buildings safer and here are some items that were presented/suggested:
 - School Crisis Plan Reviews
 - Safety needs assessment with students and staff
 - Students need to be familiar with guidelines for all locations.
 - AMS training videos with students and staff (with parent permission)
 - Additional training for our security staff. Madison County Sheriff's Department presented at our February Professional Development day and worked with our district security staff on training.
 - AHS-AMS security staff need to be identifiable with a certain color shirt.
 - Building entrances should monitored throughout the day either by the Principal's or designated staff. Outside doors should be locked with the exception of AHS main entrance in the morning.
 - Digital radios
 - Upgrading intercom system
 - ID/Badge pass scanner at entrance of buildings.
 - SRO's spending time at the front entrance or auditorium entrances (circulate around).
 - Screener/social worker for students who make threatening comments

- More film on doors and windows that is more shatter resistant.
- Buzzer system on front door at AHS and a panic/alarm button at front desk.
 - FYI- AT LCCC- if your phone is off the hook, security comes right away. (Maybe ACUSD can look into that feature).*
- Goal to create a district safety committee and meet on a quarterly basis.
- Lockdown/intruder drills are mandatory and are performed once per year.
 - Parent concern at West for pickup process. Mr. Cappel will look into this. It was mentioned to look at North's process as well.*
- If the County School Facility Tax passes, a lot of these things could be paid out of these funds.
- Any suggestions, please call Mr. Cappel as safety is the upmost importance.

Building Reports:

- Gilson/West – March 15th DQ fundraiser from 5-8 p.m.
- March 20th – Track practice
- AMS- Walk out yesterday. It was peaceful and organized and students had to have permission slips. Mr. Cappel noted that Mrs. Inman set the tone for how students should be acting.
- North- Chocolate sales were far more successful than they anticipated.
- Green Team has grown to an almost unmanageable number. Courtyard clean-up is April 28th.
- East/ES/LJ- We hold seven book fairs throughout the year. K-2 didn't have the funding to support Scholastic News. Through the profits from Scholastic dollars, we have purchased these for students at \$5.25 per student. Teachers love it!
- Parent mentioned that she is hoping we can work out the AEA contract. Mr. Cappel suggested that you can go to Illinois State Board of Education website (for a reliable source) and look at the Illinois State Report Card to do your research and compare us to other districts.

Calendar of events attached.

Next and final meeting of the year is April 11, 2018.

