

HIGHCREST/WJHS
PTO General Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2013

Call to Order

Ami Campbell and Chris Leutz called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

- 1) The minutes of the WJHS September PTO meeting were reviewed and approved.
- 2) The minutes of the Highcrest September PTO meeting were reviewed and approved.

Principal's Report

Dave Palzet presented "Show Me the Numbers", an overview of the student data that is available and how it is being used by teachers and administrators. Highlights include:

- 1) The 3 primary goals of the D39 approach to managing and using data
 - a. to find the "sweet spot" at the intersection of the "art" and the "science" of teaching
 - b. to avoid being "Data Rich but Information Poor"
 - c. to value more than just the numbers
- 2) The data that is being used
 - a. Test scores (Performance Series, ISAT, PARCC in 2014), non-academic data, classroom assessments, CBM (Curriculum Based Measures), INFORM measures
 - b. A "DASHBOARD" database for every student that enables teachers to synthesize all available data, and target instruction accordingly
 1. Captures all the data for each 5-8 grade student at a glance.
 2. Carries forward from year to year.
 3. Helps flag potential interventions needed.
 - c. SLO (Student Learning Objectives) – regular review process for every student to ensure that their objectives are being met.
 - d. Qualitative data from language, intervention and differentiation specialists
- 3) Formal and informal Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Three meetings per year for each student to evaluate data holistically
 - b. Intervention Team Meetings, for students struggling and in need of extra interventions
 - c. Student Growth Goals – currently a pilot test that will be implemented statewide in 2016, designed to establish measurable goals to be used in annual school evaluations.

- d. Structured discussions on qualitative data with social workers, language specialists, and differentiation specialists.
 - e. Team/House meetings
- 4) How is the learning from the data applied in the classroom?
- a. Ultimate goal is a year's growth in a year's time
 - b. Informs placement decisions
 - c. Integral to lesson planning
 - d. Creating Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)
 - e. Progress monitoring
 - f. Differentiation
 - g. Potential interventions
 - h. Core curriculum development

Environmental Awareness Committee

Sara Kurensky reported on the 2013-14 Program. Overall, the committee's objective this year is to develop a sustainable program that does not need to be created from scratch every year.

Specific goals:

- Develop a program that encourages students to think of themselves as environmental stewards, not just Earth Week participants.
- Inspire students to accept their responsibility as citizens of the world charged with reducing their footprint over the course of their lifetime.
- Help students understand that they can have a bigger impact as a group than they can individually.
- Make this way of thinking a part of our social structure and students' regular routine.
- Gradually evolve from a parent-driven to a student-driven program.

Overview of 2013-14 Implementation Plan:

- Each month will have a theme
- The theme will be supported by flyers and posters throughout the schools, links, YouTube videos, etc.
- Conduct a monthly collection or drive that ties into the theme
 - The November theme is "Food Waste" to build awareness that 40% of the food that is produced in this country is wasted.
 - Also in November there will be a Thanksgiving food drive to support the New Trier Food Pantry.
 - The December theme will be "Fast Fashion", focusing on our addiction to being fashionable and the associated waste
 - Additional monthly themes to come for remainder of year.

Variety Show

Ann Garrison and Wendy Raymond reported on the 2014 Highcrest Variety Show

- The theme will be a takeoff on “Gangnam Style” called “Highcrest Style.”
- Students have submitted design ideas for the collateral materials and a winner is being selected.
- Auditions will be held Mon-Wed 12/9-11.
- Ann and Wendy clarified that it’s an all student program with the following parameters:
 - a. 1.5 minute time limit for all acts
 - b. Students must demonstrate a portion of their performance at tryout time for approval
 - c. All information will be posted on the Highcrest website
 - d. Flyers are going up at Highcrest and on the new foyer TV screen this week
 - e. In particular, creative acts that are not just dancing and singing are being encouraged
- Ann will choreograph dances for kids who can’t find a group to perform with or are shy, but want to be part of the show.
- Students who don’t want to perform can participate as announcers or crew.
- New this year: each act must have a parent in the cafeteria with their student group during the performances to monitor student behavior.
- There is no performing in bare feet or socks.
- The show will take place on February 7, at 4:30 and 7:30.

Kids Are Key

Sally McQueen thanked parents for donating and announced the raffle winners.

FAN

Maureen Kebo announced upcoming FAN events and directed parents to the website for more details.

Spiritwear

Karen Holmberg announced that HMS Spiritwear sales will remain open through 11/17.

Youth Connection

- The fall play, “Alice in Wonderland,” will be presented at WJHS Saturday, November 16.
- Battle of the Bands: Battle of the Bands is scheduled for February 2014. Parents should check the website <http://www.youthconnection.org> for details.

The next joint PTO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 in the Highcrest auditorium.

The meeting was adjourned 10:41 am.