

**Tamalpais High School Site Council**  
**Wednesday April 18, 2018**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in Attendance:** *J.C. Farr, Darla Deme, Michelle Muir, Luc Chamberlin, Avi Perkoff, Theo Koffman, Christopher Adams, Alyssa Sadner, Kelli McGiven, Grace Backe,*

**Guests:** *Alaina Hershey, Bill Sefton, George Cagwin*

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**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 3.00 p.m. by Chair Michelle Muir

**Approval of Agenda & Meeting Minutes:** *Motion* to approve agenda; motion carries. Minutes from meeting of March 21, 2018 will be approved by email.

**Vietnam War Plaque, Art Mosaics and Mural:**

-Bill Sefton and George Cagwin of the Tam High Alumni Association asked for approval of a plaque honoring Tam Alum who died serving in the Vietnam War. The Alumni Association currently has a plaque on the clock tower honoring Tam Alum who dies serving in WWII, and would like to put this similar one next to it. TSC was supportive and questioned whether it should be limited to just the Vietnam War, or include all war areas after WWII. The Alum Association representatives agreed a plaque honoring alum from all wars would be ideal. A motion was made by Avi Perkoff to allow the Tam High Alumni Association to display a plaque honoring all Tam High Alumni who have died while serving during active duty in **any** war zone since WWII. Grace Backer seconded the motion, and TSC approved.

-Bill and George requested the TSC give thought to the possibility of hanging 2 mosaics and a mural somewhere on campus. The Alumni Association will finance the displays. The 2 mosaics are attached to wood backings, and used to be part of Meade. There were removed 15 years ago and are currently being stored. Each is about 7'x4', and weighs about a ton. Pictures can be found at TamGrads.org. The original plan was to hang these in Keyser, but they have learned the studs may not be strong enough to support the weight. Ideas brought up were a free standing display on the north side of Gus Gym, or something under the stairs leading to Upper Keyser. We agreed to think about other ideas for them to pursue. Additionally, some time ago a canvas mural was removed from the library and the Alum Association would like to have it displayed on campus. The mural was created by WPA as part of the New Deal. The challenge with prior attempts to display this is that it is difficult to find a wall that is large enough. TSC agreed to also contemplate finding a display area for this historical mural.

**Art Mural (Alaina Hershey):** Student Alaina Hershey recently participated in the Marin County of Education Walker Creek Leadership Retreat. The participating schools propose working on a multischool mural, with a focus on equity, LGBT rights, inclusiveness and acceptance. She requested TSC support to work with Mr. Gilmore, Ms. Levine and Tam Admin to research logistics of moving forward with a mural to be created by Tam art students. Unanimous support was given, with the understanding it be tied to the work being done by other schools on their campus, and brought back to TSC once plans are solidified and a mock drawing is created.

**WASC Feedback and activity:** JC reported that the WASC Committee verbally raised question about the Tam High campus climate. They observed many students outside of class, cell phone use in class, and an overall climate lacking order. TSC did an activity to gauge both the culture and climate at Tam. The ensuing discussion concluded there is a lack of consistency with many items, including teachers, programs/classes, and expectations placed on students. There was also mention of decreased collaboration amongst teachers over the years, with an acknowledgement that climate has improved since JC has become Principal. On a positive note a teacher observed students appear to be nicer to each other than they have been in the past, though many kids continue to get lost in the cracks both socially and academically. Suggestions for improvement included socialization to create a tighter staff group, more consistent and collaborative use of teacher prep time, identifying a common space for teachers to congregate, being cognizant of generalizations, and consideration of consistent guidelines around students. JC plans to factor this feedback into plans for moving forward.

**Principal's Report (J.C. Farr):** JC provided an update of the district budget situation, outlining some of the more significant cuts approved by the board the prior evening. He reported the bell schedule vote ran into a potential snag in that they may need to wait a year before the teachers are allowed to vote, due to contract limitations. CASP testing was successful with a 99% participation rate. JC distributed Tam Dashboard information and asked the TSC to review for the next meeting.

**Student Report (Avi, Theo and Christopher):** Theo reported the Marin County Board of Education Leadership Retreat at Walker Creek was an incredibly positive experience. They are hoping to continue similar work next year. Tam created it's own lip dub. It was good for a first effort, and they plan to do another one or two in hopes of improving based on what they learned the first time. Avi reported that another student raised with him the idea of having a discussion class focused around drug and alcohol use. Avi will put the student in touch with Kelli McGiven to further explore this idea, and how it might dovetail with the work being done by Peer Resources.

**Teacher Report (Luc, Alyssa, Kelli, Grace):** Kelli reported that Peer Resources will hold a carnival in conjunction with the last Tam Unity Day. The focus will be on sexual health, body image and drugs and alcohol. Alyssa indicated she received a portion of the grant funds requested from the THF to hold a retreat for Tam students, similar to the one put on by Marin County Office of Education at Walker Creek. It might not be held at Walker Creek, but will undertake similar work.

**Classified Report (Darla):** The classified staff are happy the budget cuts did not include any layoffs. Darla will soon be working on master schedule. Parking on campus continues to be of concern.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle Muir, for*  
*Suzi Andrews*  
Recording Secretary