

Tam Site Council

Minutes, June 6, 2018

Attendance: Members - Alyssa Sandner, Christopher Adams, Theo Koffman, JC Farr, Michelle Muir, Sophia Ferro, Suzi Cadle Andrews (by text and phone with Sophia Ferro). Guest – Elaine Wilkinson.

Agenda approved

May meeting minutes are not yet available, and will be distributed to be approved via email

Public comments: Elaine Wilkinson of the Tam High Foundation thanked the Tam Site Council for their support.

Student Reps: Elections were held for 2018-19 student reps, and the new reps are as follows:

Tessa Pares, class of 2019

Sonya Sultan, class of 2020

Christopher Adams, class of 2021

Freshman election will be held in December

Cell phone policy: JC provided a follow up to prior TSC discussions regarding a possible cell phone policy. Tam admin sent a survey to Tam staff and 90%+ voted for a uniform cell phone policy. JC reviewed the Drake High cellphone policy and is moving forward with one for Tam modeled off Drake. In sum, in all classes all student phones must be in silent or sleep, and placed in cell phone holder of teacher's choosing. The cost would be relatively low. Many classes already have a policy and place for student phones to be kept. Parents have offered to help fund a Tam cellphone policy, and JC has some funds available in the facilities budget. The policy will allow teachers to utilize phones for academic purposes, and exceptions will be made for medical reasons. This new policy will make it more important for each classroom to have chrome carts. This policy will be a requirement for teachers. The school still needs review and clarify consequences, as well as what communication devices this should include, such as cell phones. It is anticipated this policy will have an impact on class focus and coordination of negative behavior.

Athletic Cords: Sean Norton of Tam High Boosters requested the TSC approve athletic cords for graduating seniors to recognize students for outstanding achievement or participation in Tam athletics. Sean reviewed the list of current groups who recognize graduating seniors with cords. He proposed for the Tam Boosters to provide blue and white cords for athletes who have played one season of a varsity sport during any of their years at Tam.

Sean mentioned the Boosters have also discussed the possibility of issuing a second set of cords for players who have won certain MCAL awards in future years. TSC discussed that would need further consideration as it is not consistent with the current culture around the cords, which is to recognize achievement or inclusion within a group, but not distinguishment already recognized by outside organizations. For example, everyone in Mock Trial receives a cord, and those who win state or national recognition to not wear a different or additional cord.

This discussion led to a consensus that TSC should come up with guidelines for cords.

Motion: Sophia Ferro made a motion to approve the blue and white varsity athletic graduation cords as presented by Sean Norton. Theo Koffman seconded. All approved.

Staffing update: JC reported that all staffing for 2018-19 has been finalized, with the exception of a 0.6 FTE world languages instructor. This need is a result of world language teachers teaching outside their discipline. Tam is considering expanding this job to 0.8 to make it more appealing to candidates. There will be a 0.2 FTE increase in counseling because of enrollment growth, and Brian Napolitano and Alex Hunt took that share. JC is pleased with staffing for this coming year.

Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA): JC gave a brief overview of the proposed SPSA. He reported the Tam SPSA was drafted taking into consideration feedback from our recent WASC review. Updates have been made for new programs at Tam. The primary goal continues to be collaboration during the school day. Tam admin is working on using the master schedule to create opportunities for people to do this during their paid time, and the action plan addresses this.

JC acknowledged Tam's culture is one of a strong sense of autonomy, and he is trying to increase the collaboration within that culture. He addressed the importance of benchmarking success as part of collaboration. There will also be more of a focus on career options and career exploration, and working backwards to college selection or career training.

Motion: Alyssa Sandner made a motion to approve the Tam SPSA as presented by JC Farr. Christopher seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Michelle Muir on behalf of Suzi Cadle Andrews.