

Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 2020, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. via zoom

Members in Attendance: Suzanne Alpert, Scott Birkestrand, Natalie Bitton, Nicholas Blechman, Luc Chamberlin, Laura Erickson, J.C. Farr, Lisa Giuliani, Shana Katzman, Laura Keaton, Adrian McCory.

Guests in Attendance: April Ginsberg, Cheryl Lua, Elaine Wilkinson, Yvonne Milham, Kaki McLachlan

Call to Order: 3:00pm by Suzanne Alpert

Suzanne Alpert led Council in a Zoom chat warm up conversation - [prompt] What is members' favorite holiday tradition during COVID

Approval of the Agenda: Shana Katzman motions to approve the agenda. Luc Chamberlin seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: Laura Keaton motions to approve the agenda. Scott Bikenstrand seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Suzanne Alpert described the process of public comment

Public Comment (2 mins per guest):

3:10 pm:

Elaine Wilkinson

- "Busy, busy, busy" with THF / Back to school
- The Foundation is struggling with family participation/ donations during the pandemic. We currently have 28% participation/ donation rate.
- Requests Spread word about donating. Anything you can do to help get the word out about donations/ engaging families.
- The Foundation hasn't stopped supporting students. We had a tiny glimpse of the experience of teachers at a Zoom event (?) - it gave us a heightened appreciation of what teachers do each day.

3:20 pm:

Wellness and Counseling Update and Discussion (Members of the Tam High School Counseling Team including April Ginsberg, Cheryl Lua, and Yvonne Milham) **The counseling team has shared the websites below for pre-reading to be completed before the site council meeting. **

- Counseling Website: <https://www.tamdistrict.org/domain/1557#calendar17397/20201204/month>
- Virtual Wellness Center: <https://sites.google.com/tamdistrict.org/tuhsd-summer-counselingwellnes/virtual-tuhsd-counseling-wellness-center?pli=1>

JC Farr

Introductions:

- “They don’t need an introduction”, we have three members of our Counseling and Wellness Departments; April Ginsberg, Cheryl Lua, Yvonne Milham

Cheryl Lua

- This is Cheryl’s second year at Tam
- Tam Wellness has been around for 3.5 years

April Ginsberg

- Discussed challenges and continuing needs of staff and students during the pandemic
- Explained mission of counseling department

Yvonne Milham

- Introduced Wellness mission
- How Wellness and Counseling’s mission differ
- Counseling/ counselors are akin to specialists, Wellness are general practitioners

Cheryl Lua

- Academic and socio-emotional successes of the year
- Expressed the collective goal of strataling the academic and health and wellness for students
- We have increased our advocacy this year, i.e., teacher sends counseling a list of students in order to interface with students, check-in with students
- More connection between different supports/ stakeholders for students
- Teachers have adapted well to feedback, are being responsive, which is awesome
- One success - Tam’s learning hubs. We have seen this has had an impact for students with access issues
- Acknowledged that there is a minority of students that have thrived in online learning

Yvonne Milham

- “We have seen a similar thing.” Some students expressed in the spring that they felt better working online. We have seen the need for wellness pick back up again when students saw that distance learning would be longer-term

- Expressed a challenge this year- supporting freshman students. This is the first year that Wellness has reached out to all freshmen. Provider has shown freshmen how to access Wellness website and other supports
- We have learned that many students are impressed with Tam during distance learning, compared to their prior teachers
- Many students express that they wish other students left their screens on
- Shared the new wellness site. Wellness has been receiving more referral through the website
- Wellness has more diversity in age and racial background of the support staff than in past years
- Yvonne is available to talk with families on the phone. It is helpful to normalize what is currently happening
- We have group offerings, including LGBT, and non binary.

April Ginsberg

- Explained Maggie Maguire came onboard at Tam as the College and Career Specialist this year
- Maggie has held workshops to support students academically and with college entry, as well as provided other supports
- Shared student quotes - some “doom and gloom” and student struggles, and some more positive perspectives from students

Cheryl Lua

Discussed academic and socio-emotional challenges for students during Covid

- Lack of connection - peer connection for developing adolescents - not having that has been a “big loss”
- Internet connectivity issues
- Stress, anxiety, and depression
- Accessing education for ELL, IEP, lower socio-economic status students- we have struggled to meet those needs. ELL students depend heavily on being in-person for learning
- Students report that managing and accessing different learning platforms and learning tools is challenging
- Screen fatigue is “soul crushing” - Being able to focus and learn in front of a screen for many hours a day
- Students are being expected to perform as if there was no pandemic going on
Students have a hard time adapting to the expectations online
- School is pushed into private spaces - we are asking students to be students from home
As a result, public school is effectively being moved into private homes
- Family relationships can be strained because everyone is “stuck together”/ tension can be high in the home due to everyone under the same roof
- We are missing the in-person piece of schooling in order to support students emotionally

April Ginsberg

How has Wellness and Counseling pivot during Covid?

- Case managers
- Lots and lots of check-ins
- Helping students with scheduling
A lot of our younger students aren't used to checking emails regularly
- We have been able to push into classes for support
- All of our presentations are pre-recorded - which is a benefit
- Cherly redesigned website- which is great

Yvonne Milham

- Wellness is loving Ringcentral for connecting students to services

Some additional offerings of Wellness include:

- We have an additional therapist
- The vaping succession group
- Therapy animal group online w/ home pets
- Staff support group
- Suicide prevention will be offered to all grade levels through English class

April Ginsberg

Some continuing needs include:

- Getting students to graduation
- We may need more sections of AW in the future
- The need for targeted mandatory support
- Summer Bridge program for incoming Freshman next year - Their transition will be more difficult

Elaine Wilkinson

- TFT is here to support you (wellness and Counseling)
- "Parent hat" - noting that parents can refer students

Yvonne Milham

- Children can say "no" to receiving wellness services
- Will ask JC to include parent referral in announcement in the next newsletter

Suzanne Alpert

- Any other questions?
- Kaki here to talk about re-opening and safety plans

3:35 pm

Safety and Reopening Plan Update and Discussion (Kaki McLachlan):

Kaki McLachlan

- “Counseling presentation is the ‘safety plan’ for our kids”
- Currently we [Marin County] are in purple. The current state guidelines don’t allow high schools to open in purple
- SSSPP works as a waiver for elementary. Matt Willis - (County Public Health Officer) is working on getting a waiver to allow high schools in Marin Co. to reopen
- Once allowed - “we are ready” to open
- Campus is ready, training teachers to be ready
- Laura Keaton has been amazing, Elaine Wilkinson has been amazing at the Foundation in providing the financial backing for lunch benches and tech equipment
- Our custodial staff have been the “unsung heroes”. They have moved all the furniture out of the classroom to maintain 6’ student spacing. We have storage, IT, PPE and ¿? Ready.
- Many one-way passageways have been established
- 30 point opening plan
- Staggering lunches, which will come into play primarily on rainy days
- We are not doing staggering starts
- We have the vastness of Tam campus as an asset. We are naturally spread out. We have separate entrances and exits
- During the school day, students will not be allowed to leave campus
- Students will always have their masks on, maintaining 6’, which will require staff supervision
- We have daily health screeners that parents need to fill out
- If there is an alert, i.e, someone that has potentially been exposed, they will be asked to stay home
- We will be contact tracing, which will be a big, difficult job
- The school come back plan is on the District website

Elaine Wilkinson

- We (parents) get the reminder that our kid is back on campus - “7:15 works for me”

Shana Katzman

- Question - airflow - It would be really nice to know there is proper airflow - What measure are you taking to check healthy airflow?
- Meters are super cheap

Kaki McLachlan

- We don’t have meters, it hasn’t come up. We don’t currently have a tool to assess airflow

Suzanne Alpert

- Works at a primary school
- What has been surprising is how exhausting it has been
- School takes break every three weeks for a day

Kaki McLachlan

- Mondays in the hybrid model will be fully virtual
- My experience with friends and family that are back at school is that it takes a couple weeks to acclimate
- We have an amazing team!
- Yes, we don't know when we will open
- We are pushing for opening after one week in in the red. "Let's push to open as fast and safely as we can"

Elaine Wilkinson

- Why is it that elementary schools can have waivers and not high schools?

Kaki McLachlan

- Viral load of HS students
- Politically - small students at home

JC Farr

- More challenging for HS to plan for contact tracing between multiple classes
- After 10th grade students start to go in different directions
- It takes time to get to smaller cohorts. The process of understanding $\frac{1}{3}$ cohorts for lower exposure
- Everything changes [with reopening/ hybrid plans] on a weekly basis - reopening plans, guidelines, cohorts, athletics. It all has been evolving throughout time.
- Who is considered essential
- Some of the language is changing. How Matt Willis defines issues so that we can reopen.

Kaki McLachlan

- Everyone's physical and emotional safety is our priority

3:50pm

Member Updates:

Principal Report:

J.C. Farr

- Kaki covers a lot of what we have been upto
- We had a webinar with more than 300 participants

- Staff participated in a training for reopening
- We have prioritized mental health and safety
- There is a lot of staff anxiety about going hybrid
- We are trying to support teachers with tech as we go toward hybrid. We are working on it, but it's a challenge
- Some are disappointed that we won't return to in-person on Jan 6th
- People need a break [winter break] to "step away"
- If we opened on January 6th, staff would work over break. Everyone needs a break.
- A break will be good as far as supporting people in second semester to be as effectively as possible
- We are trying to support everyone with where they are at. It has been a challenge, but there have also been some positives
- We are grateful to be here everyday with a positive attitude!

Teacher Report:

Laura Erikson

- Science Department has been looking forward to students in-person
- We are also trying to grapple with the issue of time to clean manipulatives
- We appreciated the DLL presentation on Monday - hybrid models
- We are happy that students can still turn things in late
- I think this semester is ending well, and that next semester will start well
- Students know we [teachers] are trying to support them
- We stay until 5pm or later to make good lessons (working hard!)

Luc Chamberlin

- For majority of teachers tech is a lot to plan
- Vikco Cesko (Tam IT Specialist) has been great
- Everyone is looking forward to the end of the semester
- Helping students get "over the finish line"
- Hope community is forgiving as it will be VERY challenging

Scott Bikestrand:

- We have had a suicide interest uptick
- Trying to look for room in classes/ classrooms for hybrid
- Scheduling has become 3x harder for hybrid

Student Report:

Adrian McCory

- Lastnight posted a poll - asking how finals have gone thus far
-70% have said they have gone "OK"
-30% saying have not gone "OK"

- A student asked if Tam high had a google form for interfacing with the school [Administration¿?]
- Another student didn't see the purpose of school on Mondays as the school day is short

Classified Report:

Laura Keaton

- We have been putting up signs, making PPE packets
- We have a great staff, which makes it work
- Walking students schedules to see if the physical controls will work
- Shout-out to custodial staff- they have been working hard

Parent Report:

Suzanne Alpert: No report

Natalie Bitton: No report

Shana Katzman

- There is a lot of relief that we are not opening up yet
- What Scott said - it will be a mess
- I feel for the teachers- I would like to see hybrid work, but I have a lot of concern

Elaine Wilkinson

- I would like to see myself as an active community member
- The community is so grateful for you all [teachers/ admin] for the opportunity of an enriching, fully online offering
- They appreciate, love, and admire for the school
- This is not the experience necessarily at other local schools
- We are "rooting for you all the way"

Luc Chamberlin

- "It is terribly challenging"
- It's really easy for students to miss assignments or parts of assignments
- I work with Canvas everyday but it is very difficult to see what each teacher is doing/ posting
- As a parent, I wish that teachers all used the same platform

4:25 Wrap Up: Appreciations/Feedback about the meeting.

4:30 Adjourn