

Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. via zoom

Members in Attendance:

Administration: J.C. Farr

Teacher Reps: Luc Chamberlin, Scott Birkestrand, Nicholas Blechman, Laura Erickson

Classified Reps: Lisa Giuliani, Laura Keaton

Parent Reps: Suzanne Alpert, Natalie Bitton, Shana Katzman

Student Reps: Adrian McCory, Braden Young

Guests in Attendance: Ruby Rose Amezcua (Junior-SOAR President), Matthew LemMon (SOAR advisor), Jacob Cohen (Senior-SOAR VP), Connor Snow - Vice Principal - Equity Team

Call to Order: 3:00 pm by Suzanne Alpert

Introductions: say in a sentence or two how you are doing. You might never guess this, but people ask me about.....

Approval of the Agenda: Luc Chamberlin motions to approve the agenda with the addition of the link to review the bylaws. Adrian McCory seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: Scott Birkestrand motions to approve the agenda. Luc Chamberlin seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Public Comment (2 mins per guest):

- Executive Director of Tam High Foundation: Elaine Wilkinson
 - 23% of families have participated in fundraising despite dollar amounts looking good; targets are normally met by November - we will work longer and stronger
 - Grants voted on Nov. 16 (after presidential election)
 - Measure M: stats from campaign team 23,000 of 87,000 ballots have been cast. Only 7% of 23,000 are from Tam District parents. "Don't stop at the top" initiative. 44% of the ballots cast so far are from seniors, but they are exempt from the parcel tax.
 - Thank you to the teachers that have been out with signs on Measure M

Updates and discussion

- Sign ups to be a note taker
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tYg_XzA6FSDHOX6_mzHoAObx1KUGZwlgdvc7TMQUgOA/edit?usp=sharing
- Review of bylaws, led by Natalie Bitton's recommendations. Phone call to be setup as a follow-up

Reports:

- SOAR (students organized against racism): Nationwide organization that is in line with *Courageous Conversation* compass that includes 4 agreements and 6 conditions.
 - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wTitv1f1o0ufnncz2gcfwNayfeuedDamEcxlXknF5dQ/edit>
 - Mission - fearlessly integrates the individuals of the TAM community under the core values of racial justice and equity;
 - Updates on 2019 initiatives, district has been awarded Ruby leadership award
 - Going well and challenges: engagement, commitment, plan, BIPOC amplification, timing
 - 2020 projects, workshops, and initiatives for this academic year
 - Outreach, comm: tamsoar@gmail.com, video promo created
- Connor Snow, Vice Principal - Equity Team, administrative liaison for SOAR
 - Restorative practices approach: what can be done to repair harm that has been done
 - Systems: establishing a formalizing model of restoratives practices, working with Wellness Center
 - Culture: additional anti-racist professional development. Nov. 19 PD student perspective
 - Academic: audit of curriculum, equity audit

Administration Report - J.C. Farr:

- comment on equity - work being done on multiple levels - students, staff, PTSA (work from Deborah McNight), understanding history (e.g. the school sitting on Miwok land, Asian-American in yearbook being crossed out, segregation of Marin City, etc..). The common goal is that we uplift the experience of ALL students and that they report that they feel welcomed and supported. There is room for improvement.
- Plan is for school to re-open on January 6.
- Significant increase in DF&I grades, numbers have doubled. A major cause is distance learning.
- All this within COVID pandemic period, National Election, Parcel Tax, etc...

Teacher Report:

- **Laura Erikson:** in science departments, making Mondays catch up days, and also community building days; impressed with email communication from students; engaged peer reviews CER's (claim, evidence, reasoning)
- **Luc Chamberlin:** No on Measure M run by one individual; teachers relieved that school is not re-opening until January; zoom negatives and positives depending on students. As a teacher, difficulty in connecting with students
- **Nicholas Blechman:** significant challenge of encouraging engagement while maintaining boundaries (e.g. 80% reduction in camera use)

- **Scott Bikestrand:** challenges with being proactive with student challenges. Teachers spread thin.

Classified Report-

- **Laura Keaton:** left early
- **Lisa Giuliani:** learning hubs in mountain room are helpful to students, satisfaction that district decided to open in second semester

Parent Report-

- **Suzanne Alpert:** pass
- **Natalie Bitton:** collaboration with Maggie Maguire to offer Grade 11/12 parent workshops related to college admissions in October/November; request to make announcement to PTSA
- **Shana Katzman:** satisfaction that district decided to open in second semester, concern that there are many online platforms being used (google classroom, canvas, etc...), there is a difference between zoom time and online time - maybe blend synchronous and asynchronous, athletic team tryouts still planned for December.

Wrap up: Appreciations/feedback about the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.