

Tamalpais High School Site Council
Wednesday January 23, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: *J.C. Farr, Grace Backer, Luc Chamberlin, Carol Craft, Alyssa Sandner, Ben Cleaveland, Michelle Muir, Matt Wulfstat, Tessa Pares, Chris Adams, Sonia Saltzman, Suzi Andrews*

Guests: Elaine Wilkinson, Angela Hopper, and Tam A.P. Karin Hatton

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Suzi Andrews

Approval of Agenda & Meeting Minutes: *Motion* to approve agenda; motion carries.

Public Comment: Elaine announced the launch of the Tam Foundation's Spring Major Grant application process. The updated application date is March 20th, which was postponed to offer time to adjust to budget news and considerations. Applications can be submitted on line.

Guest Presenter Angela Hopper: Angela is a special education and ELD teacher who is also the teacher rep for the BSU. Angela presented an exciting overview of the Tam Mentor Program she has developed. The program began in March 2018 and was up to 55 students by August. The program develops adult to adult, student to student, and student to adult relationships to promote student success for at risk learners. The program has had huge success, showing a .2 percent bump in GPA's the first six weeks. The program builds relationships and offers a structure for follow up, communication, and support for homework, tests, and behavior. Customized emails each month highlighting student growth and challenges have been an effective tracking system, offering personalized updates, rather than relying on more impersonal spreadsheets with anonymous data. Data is showing significant improvement in student well-being, grades and attendance. Angela's goal is to create a sustainable system, not reliant on just one person to promote and guide.

Principal's Report and Budget Discussion (J.C. Farr): J.C. introduced Karin Hatton, the new Tam Assistant Principal. Karin comes to us from Napa High School. She shared that she has a background as a 20-year English teacher, Instructional Coach, Teacher Leader and Administration Intern. She'll be working on the master schedule. J.C. highlighted some of the great things happening at Tam: Tam's Mentor Program, the Success Network, the transition into high school program and the Tam News Parallel publishing project. THF Grants night is February 11th. J.C. offered an overview of the remaining budget challenges that still exist, highlighting the structural deficit and on-going shortfalls. He reminded the site team of the Fiscal Advisory Committee's role and process. BACR is facing a gap of 50% in funding and establishing a way to restore this is a priority. Next immediate steps for the Site Council are to determine as a group what we want to advocate for. Site members asked how can we partner with outside organizations to close the BACR gap? Challenges faced by losing the librarian position were discussed and questions were raised about how can we support the library/research skills that students need.

Teacher Report: Global Studies trips are coming up in late March. Trip leaders are reminding students to collaborate with teachers about making up tests and homework. Suggestions were offered for reminding staff about who will be going and the value of the experiential learning experience. Tam Unity Day will be in March. The electives fair is coming up on January 30th in Ruby Scott Gym.

Student Report: Student representatives (and parents) raised concerns about news of widespread cheating on tests and frustration some students were reporting, and wondered about the protocols involved in addressing the problem. J.C. commented that this was an important conversation and worth talking about at a staff meeting discussion soon. Teachers and committee members briefly shared strategies and perspectives about addressing the issue.

Classified Report: There are potentially 70 certificated and 69 classified employees that could qualify for the retirement incentive. The deadline is January 25th. What positions might be impacted by the staffing changes are unclear. Questions are being asked about what work will no longer be performed due to staffing cuts; with custodial cuts how will their key work be completed?

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Cleaveland
Recording Secretary