

Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes
Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 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, Laura Keaton, Adrian McCory, Otto Ryersen.

Guests in Attendance: Elaine Wilkinson, Elizabeth Cooper

Call to Order: 3:00 pm by Suzanne Alpert

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda: Correction: Elaine Wilkinson was spelled incorrectly in the first copy of the agenda. Luc Chamberlin motions to approve the agenda. Laura Erickson seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: Correction: Elaine Wilkinson was spelled incorrectly in the December 2020 minutes. Luc motions to approve the agenda. Laura Erickson seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Public Comment (2 mins per guest):

- **Elaine Wilkinson** : Tam High Foundation is pushing back the Spring Grants deadline to 3/31 to allow teachers more time to plan for what they may need next year.

Updates and discussion

JC Farr introduces Elizabeth Cooper from the Success Network

- The Success Network is an equity initiative to support underserved students by collaborating with Community Building Organizations (CBOs) to really understand their needs and struggles and to be able to communicate those with their teachers

Elizabeth Cooper presents the Success Network

4th year of Success Network

Sharing data and reflections on students right now

Monthly meeting with CBOs to interrupt predictability

Progress monitored - via mentoring relationships, positive relationships, academic progress, engagement.

Currently 152 students being monitored

School Year 2016/17 - only 30% of black students graduating with University of CA/CA State University a-g requirements

Last year - 64% black students graduating with a-g requirements to over 80% of white students

Looking at data of grades this year - progress of students in reduction of DFI (letter

grades “D”, “F”, “incomplete”)/NM (No Mark) who are part of the Network - 94 students now have no DFI/NM - increase of 14% since R2
Teacher empathy a key part in this reduction - including the use of success plans with specific and focused objectives

AVID skills played a part too

Elizabeth shared Challenges and Highlights -

86% of students paired with a support program

Learning hubs are helping with grades

Case management approach to highlight issues for students such as tech access, food insecurity etc

Challenges:

How to deal with students who are so far behind

Grading policies - are they

Collecting data

Keeping students connected during distance learning

How much is too much to try and create normal outcomes

Where does the transformation need to take place?

New Learning Management platforms coming

Better data access for CBOs

Working towards community consensus for equitable systems and universal interventions

Create the community support for the students

Comments / Questions -

Luc Chamberlin - asked about post high school data

Elizabeth - hard to track the data once they leave high school but some CBOs continue to follow some students at certain schools. Looking to identify peer programs to help keep students engaged

Suzanne Alpert - how could the master schedule work best - what needs to change

Elizabeth - tutorial / AW / having intentional use - allows time for both teachers and students to do the planning. Zoom time and equitable schedules

Adrian McCorry - asked about what “Students of Color” actually means

Elizabeth- any student who has not listed themselves as white

AVID & Compass

We have these programs at Tam to ensure all students have access to quality programs.

COMPASS - partnership with College of Marin (COM)- helps underserved students create a pathway to success

Nick Blechman - 11th grade Teacher Leader for COMPASS- approx 12 students of different backgrounds - program fosters a sense of community - students have increased all round in confidence.

Elaine Wilkinson - how are students identified for the program?

Nicholas - recommendations from feeder schools

Laura E - do students get to choose their classes?

Nicholas - Yes they have the option to take classes at COM

Freshmen year is when they get the most support from their COM co-ordinator (weekly)

JC Farr- this is another college readiness program and equity initiative developed by COM to help gain college credits and help with the transition from High School to College of Marin.

AVID - a national program designed for students in the academic middle defined by the individual high school

Scott Birkestrand - focus on building community with students and their families. 4 classes - one for each grade level - based on applications, interviews and teacher recommendations.

Different components during the week such as note taking at the beginning of the week

GPA increase - from graduating class - ended with 3.5 / 3.6 after coming in with 2.6 - many went on to college

Focus now - how to get the word out to students, recruit, make it equitable.

Outreach being done with Middle Schools

JC Farr - benefits - helps students be prepared for college as it builds study skills and works on social skills

Reports:

Principal Report :

JC Farr - Wishes we were AVID school-wide so students have the academic and social skills to support themselves through college. January is a busy month - priority 1 vaccines completed, ready to inform the other groups when they can be vaccinated. Progress with vaccines has settled some of the anxiety around school reopening. Incoming registration for Freshmen happening. Remaining to be thoughtful as to showing care and support for staff. Recognises the impact the lack of sports is having on some students.

Teacher Report:

- **Laura Erikson:** Talked again about the strengths of AVID. Talked about the no harm grading policy and the equity impact. Seeing good attendance but same issues with work as we start Semester 2 with some students. Wants to be addressing life skills as well as academic skills. Would like to see more student voice concerning student issues on and around campus.
- **Luc Chamberlin:** Not knowing when the return is causing anxiety. His Economics class is doing some presentations that Site Council members are welcome to attend.
- **Nicholas Blechman:** Talked about impact of pandemic - teachers anxious. Question around vaccine not being available to family members and where it leaves staff and what safeguards are being put in place.

- **Scott Bikestrand:** Counsellors working hard with graduation requirements and planning. Lack of Teacher Learner model really impacting distribution of work - how can they support Alex Hunt who used to have this position?

Student Report:

Adrian asked again about having a google form on the Tam High website so students can post questions and have voice - will work on developing this with JC before the next meeting.

Otto reports many students with sleep issues and struggling with focus in class. Looking at Prom venues - outdoor - maybe creating guidelines. "Senior of the Week" happening - just sent out Senior superlatives. Appreciated teacher discussion about world events and the impact that has on students. Working on events for Black History Month through Leadership...

Classified Report-

- **Laura Keaton:** Custodians working hard on classrooms keeping them clean - the extra custodian is helping. Front office staff missing our students.

Parent Report-

- **Suzanne Alpert:** pass
- **Natalie Bitton:** Thanked the presenters today, loved the idea of having an AVID wide school. Moral low with lack of return to school - impact of no social interaction along with cancellation of sports. Had a question around Peer Tutoring and what resources are available.

Wrap up: Appreciations/feedback about the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.