



## **Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes**

***Wednesday, November 20, 2019***

**3:00 – 4:30pm**

**Room 2020**

**Members in Attendance:** Connie Jackson, Luc Chamberlin, Laura Erickson, Matt Wulfstat, J.C. Farr, Suzanne Alpert, Laura Keaton

**Guests Present:** Beth Cherry, Kaki McLachlan, Connor Snow, Elaine Wilkinson

**Absent:** Mackenzie Holtzapple, Scott Birkestrand, Theo Kaufman.

**Call to Order:** 3:00pm

**Approval of the Agenda:** yes

**Approval of the previous meeting notes:** yes

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, 12/18/19 @ 1:15pm

**Public Comment (2 mins per guest):**

- 2 offsite grants were approved: 1. Professional development 2. Language Lab revamp (ready by 1/9/20)
- There's a void of teacher leadership
- Meeting on 12/4 to implement teacher development program
- Wanting different voices/perspective to shape and share work and design of program

**Member Updates:**

**Principal's Report –**

Overall things are going well on campus it's been a successful Fall sports season which has increased school spirit kids are excited and have lots of positive energy. Also contributing is the Spirit of Tam Unity Awards that recognizes students for positive contributions made to the school community. Tam Unity Day was also really successful which in turn has attributed to the positive energy on campus. JC is very proud of the Leadership Team overall. As a result of the 2018 Scavenger Hunt there's plans to work with student athletes to encourage a healthier mindset around self-awareness there's also a pilot program with the baseball team called "Character Development Conversations" in the works as well. Laura K added new Acronyms and topics to the SSC binders as JC wants us to be well informed of THS's upcoming events and programs.

**Teacher Report-**

Power outage has created students to become restless, distracted and low energy. Students seem stressed and fatigued yet they're working hard and the morale on campus is positive. The Freshman class is making a lot effort and really supporting one another. Link Crew and AVID field trips coming up, R2 grades are due soon students are feeling the time

crunch due to the Thanksgiving holiday being later than usual this yr. The SOAR Group is working hard on raising awareness re: the Marin City tragedy and finding ways to support the students of the community.

#### **Student Report-**

N/A

#### **Classified Report-**

Office team is enjoying working with principal Farr and the entire Admin team are working very well together. Our custodians Robert and Garrett are overwhelmed with the workload due to being short staffed because of budget cuts. This is unfortunately affecting the campus cleanliness as litter has been seen all over and the bathrooms aren't being cleaned consistently. Volunteers are barred from helping because Robert and Garrett are union employees.

#### **Parent Report-**

Support Wellness at Redwood HS has been requested from the parent of a student who sadly accidentally overdosed. There was a noticeable number of young males who attended the funeral alone and would benefit from a Wellness program at their school.

Power outages increased anxiety for some Marin City youth due to all the unknowns associated with them. Last week's Police raids also induced anxiety several children were traumatized by the visuals and news coverage. THS students are excited about the Football post season and the impending basketball season. Exciting new swimming program developed by Elaine and led by Paul Austin encourages the BTG students to learn how to swim while training to become a handsomely compensated Life Guard, the lessons are held at the MV Rec center Jan – June 2020.

#### **Discipline Update and Discussion led by Asst. Principals (Kaki Mc Lachlan & Conor Snow):**

We paired up and reviewed and discussed THS's and TUHSD's past suspension data. Vaping is a continuous problem for the school and district as a whole. Rather than use disciplinary action VP's are continuously looking for effective ways to encourage kids to quit or not start vaping at all. Some of their solutions are installing vaping detectors in the restrooms, Just say KNOW workshops for those who are caught vaping or w/ products and using restorative justice. Because there has been some turn over in the VP roles, we noticed significant inconsistencies each year about how one determines when to suspend a child. We also noticed there's a vast difference in children of color being suspended vs. Caucasian children but it seems to be improving as of last yr. Kaki and Conor mentioned laws are changing around suspension as well as it's an ever-evolving topic, so they refer to the ED Code and existing documents for guidance regarding disciplinary action. They're working on making changes to what constitutes a suspension for example they removed "Defiance" in its simplest form as a reason because the word is very ambiguous and needs to be better defined before deciding to suspend a child based on being defiant. They also take into account suspensions have a lasting effect on a student and can also affect college apps if it isn't expunged. Looking into the future they plan on digging deeper to discover opportunities and trends around discipline. They were happy to report there's only been 4 suspensions thus far and overall the school is doing well, at this rate THS maybe on track to have one of lowest suspension rates in quite some time.

#### **Wrap up feedback:**

Classified- lack of custodians have had quite an undesirable impact on the campus

Discipline project was informative

Next meeting bring a snack to share

Due to early dismissal next meeting will be @ 1:15pm

**Adjournment - 4:30pm**