

Tamalpais High School Site Council Minutes
Wednesday, Sept 23, 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, McKenzie Holtzapple, Shana Katzman, Laura Keaton, Adrian McCory, Otto Ryersen.

Guests in Attendance: Emily Uhlhorn, Elaine Wilkinson

Call to Order: 3:00 pm by Suzanne Alpert

Introductions

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

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: Otto Ryersen motions to approve the agenda. Natalie Britton seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

Elect Chair, co-chair, and secretary: Suzanne asked for members who are interested in being either co-chair and secretary contact her. Secretary can be anyone on the Site Council but the bylaws state that the co-chair must be a parent. Election of these positions will be at the October Site Council meeting

Public Comment (2 mins per guest):

- Elaine Wilkinson: Tam High Foundation (THF) has been hard at work supporting grants from teachers to support distance learning. She appreciates how the teachers recognized THF at Back to School Night. Fundraising is going slower maybe because the new freshmen have never attended classes on campus. It will take longer to meet fundraising goals but they expect to meet the goal. THF is clear that it fully supports Dr. Watson's work with racial training.
- Emily Uhlhorn: PTSA is working on educating the community about Measure M: Quality Education Renewal Measure. It is not an increase in taxes. PTSA is supporting Measure M fundraising and phone banking. PTSA is focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion and will host Deborah McKnight for an online parent education night in October.

Distance learning updates, discussion, and Principal's Report: J.C. Farr

- Distance learning is a stretch that the district did not see as reality until shortly before school opened.
- TUHSD is committed to a safe return to school and right now that includes small connectivity centers for those most underserved including English Language Learners. Today was a soft opening of six students on campus.

- J.C. is confident that THS can enforce that students wear masks but not social distancing once students step out of the classroom.
- Last week, TUHSD sent a questionnaire to try to match the number of students comfortable returning to in-person learning with the number of faculty who are comfortable teaching in-person. This is a complex problem that requires being flexible and agile.
- The school recognizes that some students are isolated and have a lot of screen time because of synchronous learning and there is some uncertainty about the R1 grades being an accurate reflection of student progress.
- J.C is extremely proud of the community leading with compassion and love. This year THS will focus on increasing the achievement of all students and improving student learning anchored by positive relationships and racial equity. There is one Tam High.

Reports:

Teacher Report:

- **Laura Erikson:** shared her experience with zoom attacks. Also, she is able to develop strong relationships with students in zoom breakout rooms.
- **Luc Chamberlin:** shared that teachers are anxious about their health and that technology may have reduced the ability to cover as much content as in the past. As a parent, Luc feels things are going well and notices that the student load may be lighter.
- **Nicholas Blechman:** shared that there is anxiety around lesson planning for distance learning, some teachers feel good but others would like more clarity on expectations from admin.
- **Scott Bikestrand:** shares that he is worried about students and the counseling department is here for them.

Classified Report-

- **Laura Keaton:** shares that everything is going fine.
- **Lisa Giuliani:** shares that classified employees are looking forward to more clarity on returning to campus.

Parent Report-

- **Suzanne Alpert:** passes in the interest of time.
- **Natalie Bitton:** asks if the PSAT will be held on campus in October and how the college and career center's work has been impacted by COVID.
- **Shana Katzman:** shares that many parents feel comfortable with their students continuing with distance learning if it means that the students are more likely to stay healthy.

Wrap up: Appreciations/feedback about the meeting

- Skipped because the meeting ran long.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.