

## Parent Advisory Board Minutes 11/2/17

**Present:** Tracee Beck, Jason Cox, Jayne Gaspari, Veronica Houston, Kristin LeGrand, Joan Mahoney, Karen Mikuska, Kathryn Muller, Maria Neely, Kerry Olson, Michelle Pellman, Tom Polak, Kristin Ripperda, Connie Scott, Matt Stork and Jackie Shotkoski

**Guests:** Alex Anderson and Kelly Jones

### P/T Conferences Recap:

- 🍁 Thank you to the board and all the parents who helped financially with the meals for the faculty & staff. It was very much appreciated! Catering is definitely the way to go!
- 🍁 Really appreciate Veronica Houston and Jayne Gaspari for getting it all set up
- 🍁 The numbers from this year's conference was comparable with last year's numbers.
- 🍁 Having the food in the dance studio was a very good idea, easy to get to for the faculty
- 🍁 Everyone liked the schedule having conferences on Wednesday. The split of having 7-12 on Wednesday and K-6 on Thursday went well for faculty that had elementary students. Board members said they also liked having it on two days because they didn't feel stressed to get to all locations in one day.
- 🍁 From the attendance side, fewer students were gone because conferences were on Wednesday, so they would still have a 4 day week-end.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Calls:

- 🍁 Several have been turned in – goal is to have them all turned in by December board meeting
- 🍁 Names are from OGJH and from the dioceses /parishes
- 🍁 A suggestion from one member was to say “We are updating our list and we show (name) is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, is this correct?” Then once you figure out if you are truly talking to a parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, then you can go into your script
- 🍁 Finding lots of errors of students being in different grades

### Peer Relations: Kelly Jones

- 🍁 Discussed survey results and noted that results are moving in positive direction.
- 🍁 Teachers had a guest speaker at the beginning of the year and heard about the different positive ways to interact with students – no sarcasm

### Peer Relation Goals: Kelly Jones

- 🍁 Goal #1 – To continue to promote a positive and inclusive climate in the halls and cafeteria
  - We rearranged the cafeteria tables taking out the long tables as we can afford it and replacing with the round tables. The round tables make everyone an equal.
  - Faculty received a gift certificate this week to eat in the cafeteria for free.
  - We are using the round tables for the Blue Ribbon Bistro after school also to create community
  - A “Mix it up at lunch day” will be planned – students will be directed to sit by someone new
  - New Students Lunch was held October 31 – Pulse and Student Council students

- 🍁 Goal #2 – To promote positive interactions among the student body at games and student events
  - Encourage student body to be positive at events
  - Encourage faculty to attend events
  - Host community building events such as semester test study nights that involve students, teachers and food
  
- 🍁 Pulse Group –New group at OG this year promoting inclusivity, mental health, care about the school. Includes 3 to 4 boys and 3 to 4 girls from each grade 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> .
  
- 🍁 Anxiety and Teens
  - Anxiety is a nationwide issue
  - Mary Weber – Catholic Family Services will be working together with us to create a Social Skills Education Group. This will be a 6 week educational course and will start in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Focus will be: What is stress and what is anxiety? And how to cope. Teachers will also get the knowledge to help the students.
    - Mary Weber will be a lunch speaker in December – this will be mandatory for all grades to attend. Usually have speakers 2 to 3 times a semester.
  
- 🍁 International Students:
  - Students apply, submit transcript and English proficiency
  - Students come in programs and independently – China students find us on their own
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year students take US Culture
  - OG and SF Christian are the only two schools in Sioux Falls that can offer the F1 Visa, which means they can stay for more than one year. Usually students stay for all four years of high school and then continue on to college somewhere in the US
  - All public schools only have the J1 Visa which is only good for a one year stay
  - Three stampede hockey players started this year – 2 from Canada and 1 from Czech Republic
  - We would like to work with another international student group to get more diversity among international students
  - Needed: Host family for Bobby from China. He is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader.

#### Attendance Matters: Alex Anderson

- 🍁 Students with higher attendance rate do better in school
- 🍁 1<sup>st</sup> period tardies receive a detention - #1 disciplinary problem
- 🍁 If your student is at 7 absences then be watchful
- 🍁 Numbers are looking better than last year at this time
- 🍁 Contact Alex with ideas to encourage suggestions for good attendance

#### Julie Benson Update:

- 🍁 Julie was diagnosed with cancer last year. We brought TJ Mead into co-teach with Julie spring semester. On August 16, Julie was cancer free. Then six weeks later, Julie found out her cancer was back. She is now scheduled for surgery and hot chemo after that. She will be out for the remaining of the semester and will start chemo in January

- Jacki Wang is shadowing Julie this week. She graduated with a Bio-Chemistry/Teaching degree. She student taught at Roosevelt last spring. She is happy to be here and will co-teach with Julie second semester.

#### 🍁 Brainstorming ideas to help Julie

- Candy canes for cancer –Free will donation
- Shave or save – two guys from each grade have been asked to participate. Everyone can donate money in the canister for the student they want to shave.
- Free will donation dress down day planned.
- Meals – help with suppers starting second semester
- Any other suggestions should be given to Joan.

#### Advent Project – Bishop Dudley Hospitality House:

- 🍁 Each advisory will decorate and fill 5 adult Christmas stockings and 1 child Christmas stocking. Items needed for adult stockings and children stockings will be listed in each advisory
- 🍁 The Christmas stockings are handed out on Christmas Eve.
- 🍁 Big box will be decorated in each advisory and the list was put into the Knight Letter and will also be listed in each advisory. These items are for the house itself.
- 🍁 Several people will go to the Bishop Dudley House to help decorate.
- 🍁 Chad Campbell will come and speak to the students on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving

#### Student Lunch Accounts:

- 🍁 Discussion regarding negative student accounts
- 🍁 Suggestion was brought up to add a tab in the myschoolbucks system so people can donate money to specific things listed with no additional fees

#### Questions/Concerns/Comments

- 🍁 Conference Times – some parents took 25 minutes. Jackie will hang up the sheets that tell parents to limit conferences to 10 minutes each. Anything longer needs an appointment.

#### Blue Ribbon Bistro

- 🍁 Following guidelines from the Federal Snacks for Schools
- 🍁 Bistro is now open M-F for 40 minutes after school gets out
- 🍁 A tour was given for the parent advisory board

Next Parent Advisory Board meeting will be Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am