

School Council Meeting
March 2, 2023

Meeting commenced at 4:32 pm

1) School Improvement Plan

a) Community Service Goals

1. Angie opened with a discussion of possibly changing the number of hours required for community service, for the first time in 20 years.
2. Mary said that since we pull students from so many different towns, with some high school students not able to drive, there are issues with where students can do community service.
3. The big takeaways are that, 1) many don't want to do community service; 2) many thought 10-15 hours per year is sufficient; 3) concerns with how, when, and where to do them?
4. It's a challenge to choose someone to administrate all the community service hours for all the students in the school; should it be done by advisors/homeroom teachers?
5. Some parents are having a hard time with the number of hours currently required.
6. Ann said that, according to parents at the PA meeting, most don't want the hours cut back, since this is such an important part of the school mission. They would like to see coordination and help to get students opportunities to earn community service hours. She said that Anya Uhlenbrock-Furst is excited to help organize
7. Angie feels it would be hard for a faculty member to reach out to hundreds of businesses etc. in 26 different towns. It would be better for a parent or a group of parents to take on this job instead.
8. At one point we used to say that community service done in school doesn't count, with which Angie completely disagrees. Service is part of the mission and doing service during school is students living the mission.
9. Mary said that if a student is a member of the National Honor Society, they weren't allowed to "double dip" (i.e., use NHS hours for community service hours too); service done in Workshops/Projects was also not considered acceptable.
10. The school has always said that if a student had hours/acts that the parents considered community service, it was community service. Getting some of the service done in school makes a lot of sense.
11. Shawn suggested changing the wording of the section from "outside of school curriculum" so that it would include hours in school.
12. Angie agreed that removing the words "outside of school hours" makes sense.
13. At the high school level there are 120 hours required all told.
14. Level IV is high as well.
15. Levels I and II ask for Acts of Community Service as opposed to hours.
16. Arya agrees that hours of service done in school makes sense.

17. Angie is thinking that a time once a week or once a month just for community service may work to help students accumulate acts or hours.
18. Arya said that for him, it's been difficult to do community service due to other commitments outside of school; Angie noted that some students also work.
19. Mary noted that there are some places that aren't willing or able to take a large amount of students to do service.
20. Ann also mentioned that the PA could organize events that are both social and give community service, to involve larger amounts of students. She suggested next year they could organize a few events to gauge participation interest.
21. The movie event the school had last month was an unexpectedly great success; it shows the community is looking for events that would bring people together, and if we could add community service opportunities to that, it could be a very good thing.
22. Shawn asked if students hosting new shadowing students could be given community service hours and Angie said absolutely.
23. Anne wondered if such things as movie nights could be done more often on half days. Parents would appreciate the "babysitting" and there could be jobs for students to do. Angie responded that faculty and administration wouldn't really be available to run such events, but if parents helped, that could work.
24. Anne thought peer tutoring could be a useful way to earn community service hours.
25. The NHS has done this and they found it a bit overwhelming. There is a large demand. She thinks it would be better for high school students to tutor other high school students.
26. Anne thought it could also work to have Level IV students tutoring other Level IV students. Angie noted some Level IV students have offered to be outside at the beginning of the school day to help greet students, etc. Angie thinks that with guidelines this could work.
27. Shawn noted that in the past there had been inter-Level (III and IV) tutoring and Project collaboration.
28. Rowena noted that in the past, the school used mentorship between levels for the Science Fairs. All of these types of activities could be used as community service; Angie thinks we need to do a better job of letting students know this.
29. Rowena suggested that types of community service should be part of the beginning of school paperwork and be introduced in classes.
30. Shawn recommended Junior National Honor Society as a means of getting students involved in in-house community service.

b) Extracurricular Activities

1. At the last meeting, it was brought up that we could do a better job at introducing and creating opportunities for K-8 students to have extracurricular activities. We are going to look at a late bus for next year. There are a lot of students who stay late for academic tutoring, ELL tutoring, band, etc. Many parents don't sign their

children up for such things due to transportation issues. We need to be realistic about transportation costs for afterschool activities. This is an equity issue.

2. Afterschool clubs and outside organizations are possibilities for students.
3. Jamie asked about charging enrichment fees to help offset transportation costs, or other costs associated with extracurricular activities.
4. Jamie's daughter's elementary school does fun extracurricular activities for a fee.
5. The school is talking with the Y about moving their program, currently at SSCPS, to the Y facility, which would be a great improvement for activities and a way to add programming. There would be a fee, with free or reduced options, and could be a way to provide enrichment.
6. The PA is going to do a survey to see what kinds of activities parents are interested in having for their children.
7. Angie noted that many of our teachers have children in daycare or being babysat and can't stay late after school to run enrichment programs.
8. Five-week long programs may be able to be staffed by faculty.
9. Angie sometimes hears from outside programs that would like us to offer their programs to families, but they can be very expensive. She can ask staff if they might be interested in offering afterschool programs, getting paid the rate now paid for tutoring.
10. Ann mentioned the possibility of fundraising to help pay costs of these programs for those who can't afford it. However, transportation is still an issue.
11. There is an issue with equity for afterschool tutoring and sports already because of transportation.
12. Angie can find out if the state might do a percentage of reimbursement for a late bus, like they do with regular buses.
13. Ann suggested piloting some extracurricular activities next year, and doing research on transportation possibilities in the meantime.
14. Angie noted that we still don't know how much reimbursement we'll be getting for buses for this year.
15. If the Y program did move to the Y building, it would offer more than just babysitting, but not necessarily the kind of enrichment some parents are looking for.

c) Plan Moving Forward/Homework

1. Angie would up the meeting by saying exit standards will stay the same for now, with the possibility of making changes to community service hours.
2. She also noted that there are new suspension standards the state has introduced, so that is something that will be going into the Handbook for next year.
3. The next meeting is two weeks from now, on March 16th; Angie's okay with keeping that in place.
4. The focus of that meeting could be educational goals, which this meeting did not have time for.

- 2) Student Handbook
 - a) Community Service Language
 - b) Community Service Exit Standards
 - c) Changes to Suspension Law
- 3) Budget Update
- 4) New Business

Meeting concluded at 5:35 pm

Attendees:

Angie Pepin
Mary Carter
Rowena Samuels
Jamie Allen
Shawn Connors
Ann Mantil
Arya Suryawanshi
Anne Bell
Karin Johnston
Michelle Gallagher