

**Minutes of March 4, 2014
BHS School Site Council
Conference Room B, D Building
4:15 – 6:00pm**

Present:

BHS Staff: Dharini Rasiah, Robin van der Vegt

Parents: Landi Ehnle, Satish Rao, Margit Roos-Collins (co-Secretary)

Students: Sophie Andrews, Jesse Barber, Kevin Flood-Bryzman (co-Chair), Sophia Olaya-Hermes (co-Chair)

Absent: Pasquale Scuderi, Anne Busacca-Ryan, Mark Griffin, Iris Grace, Sandra Hunt, Alejandra Nunez

Others Present: Sarah Mosley, student. Members of the Safety Committee: Enid Camps (co-Chair), Rolf Bell (co-Chair), Marjorie Alvord, Toni Stein, and Ardarius McDonald (Dean of Students)

Call to order: 4:28 p.m.

Beginning Business Items (Decision)

- **SGC Members sign in**
- **Establish a quorum**

Quorum established

- **Approve agenda**

Agenda approved without changes.

Comments from members of the BHS Community (Information)

Sara Mosely, student, spoke in support of the Safety Plan's bike safety strategy. She especially noted that the school needs more bike racks – maybe 150 as a rough estimate. Students currently must lock their bikes to trees and poles in the courtyard and elsewhere. The city is willing to donate and install the racks for free. She's been working on this with Al Wilright, former BHS Facilities Manager, and with city staff. Wants to get this project to closure.

Rolf Bell, parent, finds the 10 minutes segments of Back-to-School and Open House nights very frustrating because they are too short to allow for meaningful contact with teachers. He thinks more parents would feel it was worth their time to come if the evening was less rushed.

Sophia Olaya-Hermes has heard that one of the main purposes of those evenings is to give parents a feeling for how students have to rush between classes. She noted that teachers are supposed to be very open to meeting with parents independently of that evening.

Enid Camps, parent, and Landi Ehnle also expressed interest in thinking about how to make the evenings work better for parents.

Proposed revision to 2013-2014 EIA/EL budget (Information/Discussion) – 5 minutes

Presented by Heidi Ramirez-Weber. She noted that this would be the last time for the SSC to review a proposal for Economic Impact Aid budgeting, since the state has stopped separating out categorical funds from the monies it provides to school districts. Her proposal, approved by the school's English Learner Advisory Committee, is to use \$ for tutors. The money had been previously budgeted for AS;DLFJ and she expected to fund the tutors from this year's carryover money. However, for the first time, the District decided to use the carryover funds itself. On the other hand, the District also decided to pay for the Constructed Meaning teacher training binders instead of having it come from the EIA/EL budget, and the school ended up needing less money for parent involvement than they had budgeted for. They will be able to cover the shortfall for tutors by using the savings on the parent involvement and training binder budgets, and that switch in allocations is what the SSC is being asked to approve.

Safety Plan (Information/Discussion) – 60 minutes

Presentation of draft Safety Plan to SSC by the BHS Safety Committee.
Members of the committee were introduced.

Background: The state requires all schools to have a safety plan. Most sections remain constant from year to year. The incident/crime data and the goals and strategies are what change from year to year.

McDonald: the BHS plan compares well with those of other schools he's seen.

Two years ago, Scuderi met with the Safety Committee and identified which of its goals were his top three priorities. They have identified those in the draft 2014-2015 Goals.

Goal 1: There's a lot of theft going on right now. That's the main type of incident that arises.

Goal 2: Jasdeep Mahli, the Intervention Coordinator, was trained in the Olweus method of reducing bullying. She's training teachers in that method. OCI also uses restorative justice a lot to deal with bullying. Their goal is to help everyone heal after bullying incident and go deep enough into what happened to make that possible.

Goal 3: There's been remarkable progress in figuring out who will do what during a disaster and how the school will reassign people as there's personnel turnover. The subcommittee is also working to address how to deal with the high pressure gas line under Allston Way, which a third of the school crosses to evacuate to the park. They are exploring the possibility of changing the evacuation route. There is non-tempered glass over some of the exits and they working to address that. The Automatic Electronic Defibrillators [AED's] would be available now, but won't be until all the coaches and safety officers are trained on their use.

Discussion on thefts and cameras:

There was a theft in the library today. While it would be very unlikely that a camera would happen to be pointed right at the theft, the safety officers can use video of people coming and

going from the library at that time to identify suspects. They do do a sort of profiling, because they know who's done this before and who doesn't have class in the library at that time. Because they are not law enforcement, they only need a reasonable suspicion to search someone. The stairwells do not have cameras. The new building has digital high definition cameras so they can zoom in on faces. The cameras are motion-activated to save power. The high school's cameras do catch people and are used almost daily. In addition to stairwells, classrooms have no cameras and a lot of thefts happen in those.

Discussion on bullying:

Student notes that when a student peer reprimands a student bully that's the most effective form of response. McDonald agrees and notes that restorative justice is big on this approach. Student court is morphing into a form of restorative justice. Facilitators are trained to create safe spaces for bully and victim to interact, with student peers trained to help support and facilitate. Dharini Rasaih's students have created videos that address bullying under Jasdeep Mahli's guidance. Rasiah thinks that when students create the videos, they are more compelling to other students.

Bullying and follow-up issues:

Olaya-Hermes notes that because she's in CAS and feels very close to her teachers, if there's a problem, she's comfortable going directly to them. But she has friends who don't feel comfortable going to teachers and she has told them to go to OCI. Too many have told her that they've made reports but not seen any evidence of follow-up. She herself has experienced that once when she had an issue for OCI, she had to get her mother involved before the school got serious about dealing with it.

McDonald: OCI does make the calls to the reporter's parents and to the bully and the bully's parents, but often the incident turns out to be linked to events involving lots of other people. Offers to meet with Olaya-Hermes to figure out what happened in her instance. One problem: when LGBTQ students are bullied for their sexual orientation – if the school is obligated to report to their parents and the students aren't ready for their parents to know about their orientation, that's a major barrier to their getting help.

Discussion on OCI staffing levels:

Ehnle: what about more staffing? Her kid had to wait six months for help from OCI one time. Where's the strategy to get more staffing? Also, how does OCI use counselors? McDonald: they don't tend to use academic counselors. Camps: committee wants everyone on school staff to get training on bullying and harassment so the work of addressing it won't all fall on the OCI staff. Ehnle: what about online training for how to manage bullying in schools?

Roos-Collins: what about getting a secretary back in OCI – why not have a strategy to do that? Used to have a secretary until she was pulled away to help with attendance. Why not use part of the extra money from increased attendance and ADA to pay for some clerical time for OCI?

Rao: total ADA funds actually decreased with the big attendance push since a number of out-of-district students were identified in the process and no longer attend.

Two OCI staffers are funded with the school's BSEP funds. Need to get them onto the general school staffing budget.

Goal 4: The school has someone who can counsel students who get into substance issues. They get suspended and meet with an ATOD [Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs] counselor who is

in on Fridays. The recidivism rate for the kids who meet with the counselor is very low. But the overall numbers of students using substances are up, especially around Rally Day (prior years) and Prom. Substance issues that arise at Prom count as occurring at school even though Prom is off campus.

Goal 5: The purpose is to increase the legally-mandated interactions between agencies and the school in relation to individual students.

Goal 6: The subcommittee hopes to get more traffic planning and coordination between the city and the high school. Want to work with Dharini Rasiah to develop a film on safety using GoPro cameras on students biking to school.

Data/Implementation Questions from the SSC (Discussion/Decision) – 10 minutes

Roos-Collins noted that Dave Stevens was willing to consider additional analyses the SSC might request relating to the Constructed Response outcomes, but he preferred for the membership to assemble its data questions in advance of seeing the analyses he had prepared, to avoid a fishing expedition. The group did not think that would be an effective approach. The SSC concluded it would work best to review hardcopy of the analyses prepared for the administration, leadership, etc., and then if there are questions about the data as analyzed or about additional, proposed analyses, the SSC will assemble them as a group and submit them to Stevens.

Moved by Jesse Barber, seconded by Kevin Flood-Bryzman:

The School Site Council respectfully requests that Dave Stevens provide written copies, redacted if necessary, of his administrative team presentation on the Constructed Response outcomes, at the next SSC meeting. No presentation is needed.

Approved unanimously.

Roos-Collins noted that Stevens was willing to meet with individual members to respond to questions, but wanted to know that the topics to be addressed were ones that the SSC as a whole was interested in. The SSC agreed that members with such topic requests would submit them to the group as a whole for a vote at the next meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Deferred until the next meeting since several clarification questions in the minutes were for the Principal.

Discuss topics for next meeting, on March 18 – 3 minutes

There are five remaining meetings currently scheduled: March 18, April 15, April 29, May 6, and June 3. Members expressed a strong preference to use the remaining meeting time to discuss topics instead of listening to presentations. Secretary requested that all members email to the group the topics of greatest importance to them so that remaining agendas could attempt to get through those topics. Members agreed to do so. The March 18 agenda will incorporate some of those topics.

Meeting adjourned: 6:13 p.m.