

Minutes of November 20, 2012
BHS School Site Council
Conference Room B, D Building
4:15 to 5:45 p.m.

Present:

BHS staff: Pasquale Scuderi [*Principal*], Jessica Lopez [*Co-Secretary*], Wyn Skeels, David Stevens, Janelle Bugarini, Robin van der Vegt, Laurie Rodney, Anne Bussaca-Ryan

Parents: Rita Himes [*Co-Chair*], Margit Roos-Collins [*Co-Secretary*], Landi Ehnle, Satish Rao, Michelle Russell Nakayama, Diana Kuderna

Students:

Absent: Sophia Olaya-Hermes [*Co-Chair*], Cooper Walton, Alyssa Pace, Shira Rothman, Eli Burch, Farah Otero-Amad

Also Present:

Daniel Roose
Tamara Friedman

Call to order at 4:20 p.m.

Beginning Business Items

Unable to establish quorum; no students present
Motion to revise agenda; members voted to keep the original agenda

Public Comment

Tamara Friedman is the Long Term English Learner [LTEL] coach for teachers and she also teaches LTELs herself. Regarding approval of the Single Plan for Student Achievement [SPSA], she thinks issues are becoming conflated. She read the proposal to use Rosetta Stone. They are using some new technology to have students read at the exact right level. BHS has 13 Newcomer ELD students and this might be very right for them. Rosetta Stone is targeted to beginning and intermediate learners.

However, as to the rest of the English Language Learners [ELL], her research and the California Dept of Education handbook on supporting ELL's suggest that what they're doing at BHS is on target and it correlates well with the common core standards. The larger group of BHS students is stuck in intermediate to advanced proficiency. The staff see the use of Academic Language [AL] and Constructed Meaning [CM] in class getting results. They're also seeing strong results in Salinas from this approach. In addition, native English speakers who speak non-standard English at home benefit from CM and AL.

Tamara Friedman is in full support of the SPSA plan, especially of Goal 1 and urges SSC to approve the plan as presented by Daniel Roose.

Principal's Update:

His visit to the Brockton, MA school was excellent; Brockton has much to be proud of. Their best results are on the Massachusetts state assessment test [MCAS], which is like a hybrid of our CAHSEE and CST. It is harder than the CAHSEE but is still only pegged at a 10th grade level, as opposed to 11th or 12th, so one can pass it without achieving proficiency. Massachusetts does not have an equivalent to our 11th and 12th grade California Standards Tests [CSTs]. The MCThe school has accomplished a lot with raising literacy levels and their math scores are rising even though they haven't focused on math, probably because the students are getting better at reading the problems. Kids get exposed to the Academic Language strategies through all their courses and from all their teachers.

2012-2013 Single Plan for Student Achievement:

• Review plan with Daniel Roose

The process for getting to this point has been two years of self-study in the WASC process. The SSC was its own focus group for WASC plan review. Three teacher SSC members spoke up to say they feel that the SPSA accurately reflects what the WASC process came up with. Roose pointed out that it is possible that BHS has never had an SPSA, BUT has always had WASC plans. SSC's job is to evaluate the SPSA and decide what works, what doesn't and make recommendations.

Skeels/Rodney: recommend approving the SPSA plan as is and work to "tweak" through the school year.

Rao: concern about the weakness of the research basis justifying the choice of action items.

Feels the plan doesn't have a plan because there isn't enough data and further believes that the CM has not shown enough student academic achievement.

Himes: appreciates his comments about the importance of making the school rigorous about its research basis, but when she reviewed the research he'd provided, she didn't see the problems.

Rao: has been on the SSC for the past two years. Concerned that the plan does not call out how evaluations of effectiveness will occur. Brockton's literature shows they have the same focus on professional development as BHS but they combine that with an incredible focus on written student output -- teachers, administrators, all of them focus on student output. The Department of Education website has a list of programs that are effective, titled "What Works."

Bugarini: Using Constructed Meaning gives her a lot more work but her students improve so much as it deconstructs for them how to write a good essay. It gives them a way to scaffold writing. Further disagrees with Rao and strongly believes that PD has improved her teaching practice.

Roose: Respectfully disagrees with Rao and although he may be correct about his stance, it is not a reason not to approve the SPSA.

Roos-Collins: Suggests to treat this approval differently from Spring approval knowing that we will be working toward Spring goal.

Discussion of Goal 3 benchmarks and why two different years were chosen for math and for English [Answer: common formative assessments began a year earlier in English]. Discussion of

whether to change the English benchmark to be 2012-2013 as well, since in 2011-2012, some programs showed lower summative assessment scores than formative assessment scores, due to inconsistencies in teacher grading styles. Discussion that if benchmark stays 2011-2012, then that issue needs to be explained whenever it is used. Option to change to 2012-2013 for English as well.

Discussion of the last sentence in the fourth paragraph of SPSA v5, p. 10: "This working group took the WASC action plan and added funding sources and funding projections." Concern that actually, principal and associates added the funding information and working group reviewed it. Agreement that wording should be changed to reflect actual sequence.

Discussion of use of a caveat to allow the SSC to vote for this year's SPSA without thereby foreclosing its ability to question the underlying research basis for the action items, whether research might more strongly support alternate action items, and what data will best demonstrate effectiveness of the action items, since the SSC focus group process during WASC self-study did not reach closure on these matters. Caveat circulated and read aloud.

Motion to pass the SPSA with the caveat as worded and with the two changes discussed (moving Goal 3 language benchmark to 2012-2013 and revising wording about working group's review of funding sources. Seconded. 13 votes in favor, 1 opposed, no abstentions. However, also no quorum since at least two students must be present to have a binding vote, so this vote was more to get the sense of the group. Agreement to vote again at next meeting.

- **Develop protocol for SSC's oversight work on each of the five SPSA goals**

Scuderi: need to consider school's capacity to pay for measures of progress along the way.

- **Discuss how committee should carry out this work**

Bugarini: Proposes subcommittee for each goal? (follow the BSEP model) Support expressed.

Rodney: proposes to have a working GoogleDoc on each of the goals so people who cannot meet on a regular basis can work on goals remotely.

Roose: suggests one subcommittee meets to dig into data deeply and bring a recommendation to the entire body of the SSC.

Roose and Roos-Collins: Question was raised regarding Program Evaluation Advisory Committee [PEAC] from SSC bylaws and whether to use it for part of this work. No clear mandate developed from the discussion.

Stevens: In terms of timing of data: most of it becomes available in June. There will be interim assessments, but more of them to work within a few years.

CST data not available until the fall.

Rao: can do a quarterly analysis giving tests from the test bank and putting the results in Illuminate.

Bussaca-Ryan: Teachers are doing things throughout the year to measure students' academic improvement. We also need to look at implementation. Need to make sure that when we assess results, the action items were implemented as planned so they truly evaluate the action item.

Roose: see 1.1.1.: part of SSC's job is to look at implementation.

Rao: "What Works" on state/federal government website: data shows that implementation tends to be fine.

Other members disagreed.

- **Determine who would be interested in working on each goal**

Decision to have people volunteer for goals by emailing Rita with our preferences. Decision to use Google Docs as a shared online workplace. Not every member will be available to do extra work on goals outside regular SSC meetings.

Discuss agenda for next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.