**SCC Meeting Minutes**

**April 4, 2016**

**PRHS Library**

Present: Bruce Parsons, Bob Price, Amey Bailey, Jack Friedman, Lilly Friedman, Maria Sanders, Hannah Karp, Chris Ebner, Barbra Noyse, Lisa Ash, Andy Havey, Doug Ross, Ryan Amtmann, Emelia Fleck

* Ryan Amtmann called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m
* Introductions
* March minutes were accepted
* Ryan reminded the committee that the main goal of the meeting was to vote on the weighted grades proposal
* Ryan opened up the floor to discussion
* The question was asked, ‘are courses that do not receive a weight, for instance CTE, that have leveled classes (1, 2, 3) going to be weighted in the future? What would the process be?
* These courses are not going to be weighted
* Only honors and AP courses will be weighted
* Currently the CTE department offers several courses where students can receive college credit, which indicate that these classes are more difficult than an average class. Why would these classes not have the opportunity to be weighted?
* Although students have the option to receive college credit, these classes are not at the difficulty level of an AP or honors class
* AP classes have the option to take the AP exam to receive college credit however, it is not a guarantee that all colleges will honor the credits
* What would the process for designating a course as ‘honors’? Can the art department offer an honors course?
* Departments would need to evaluate if the subject area is offered at the AP level, if so would they have the support to offer the class at the AP level
* During the past 18+ years there has never been a request for an honors or AP course in a subject area outside of what is currently offered
* If there is interest it would need to be brought forth and voted on by the school board
* Independent studies could be offered at AP if there was an interest however the output of student work would need to be intensified
* Why are honors classes receiving a weighted grade?
* These is a distinct difference regarding rigor between level 3 classes and honors that is explained in the course description
* Math offers college credit after students complete and pass an exam however, curriculum wise, it is not one of the most challenging math classes offered therefor it is not at the honors level
* There is a system in place for honors classes to be introduced
* What is the process for a class to be designated for receiving college credit? Are the students required to do more work than the standard high school class?
* There are a number of courses, for example, Anatomy and Physiology & Marketing 3, which have an articulation agreement with the college system. The teachers who teach these courses are certified to teach college level classes and are using the college curriculum to teach their class
* If we are moving to weighted grades, then anything above the standard high school course should be weighted. Where do we draw the line?
* If the policy passes as is then it will need to be reevaluated in the future by the staff at PRHS on a course by course basis
* Is was suggested that the proposal include the reasoning behind the multipliers
* A multiplier, compared to the addition of points, rewards the students for receiving better grades. The better a student does in the class the higher their grade is
* The multiplier is only based on the courses that are currently offered at PRHS.
* Will multipliers be available on class syllabuses?
* The information will be available within the program of studies and will clearly explain weighted grades and the multiplier
* What is the rational behind using un-weighted grades for earned time, honor role and highest honors?
* Currently PRHS bases Honor Role on regular grades
* If a student receives a C in an AP course, even if it is weighted into a B range, the student will still receive a C in the class
* A C does not constitute as Honor Role, Honor Role is for A’s and B’s
* Students will still benefit from class rank by having the weight but a C will remain a C
* Honor Role and Earned Time are based on the grade a student receives
* This benefits student who are not enrolled in rigorous courses but are working hard and are receiving good grades
* If the proposal is passed are there going to be stricter requirements to enter AP classes?
* There will be no change to the current policy
* Although there are recommendations, all students have the right to enroll in any class
* Is it fair to state that the institution of weighted grades and honors benefits most of the students that would like to go on to higher education for their transcript purposes?
* Yes, students are receiving credit for challenging themselves
* Ryan moved the committee to vote and reminded those present who the voting members were
* Ten voting members were present
* Mr. Parsons
* 1 vote per parent, per town
* 1 vote per voting faculty member
* 1 vote per class
* Paper ballots were given to all voting members
* Members were required to write their name and a yes or a no for being in favor or against the proposal
* Ryan asked members to propose ideas for next year’s topic
* The school board proposed that the SCC researches the possibility of giving Physical Education credit for students who participate in a varsity sport
* This topic was brought forth by a parent
* Currently all students are required to take 1 credit of Physical Education
* The exploration of this topic should not take an entire year to research
* Examining the school’s current tardy and absent policy
* It was suggested that this is a topic for faculty senate
* Ryan will forward this proposal to the group
* National Honor’s Society providing tutoring and mentoring services for students
* Bruce Parsons stated that Mike Currier is currently working on a tutoring program for incoming freshmen
* Revisiting and reanalyzing the school wide expectations and standards
* This was a recommendation by the NEASC
* Reexamining the effectiveness of Freshmen Seminar
* It was suggested that having four divisions of 45 minute classes, no matter what the subject, does not provide students with substance or usefulness for the student’s future
* It was suggested that the current program seems ‘thrown together’
* The Happiness Quest
* The Happiness Quest is kick starting on September 1st in Plymouth and will be receiving national recognition
* The high school will be missing out if they do not have a visible component such as an activity or an event
* Plymouth is a forerunner in this project however all of the surrounding towns are involved
* The school board asked that this be presented to the board as an informational item
* The question was asked ‘what would this look like for the high school’?
* Currently the National Honors Society has participated by attending the first steering committee event
* The high school students came up with several ideas for the committee such as a student mentoring program
* Maria Sanders offered to provide packets and information to the committee regarding the Happiness Quest
* Ryan made the recommendation that the SCC meet in May to discuss the topics in more detail and vote on the formalities for next year
* The vote on the proposal of weighted grades passed
* 9 for and 1 against

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 2nd, at 5:15pm in the PRHS Library