**SCC Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2016**

**PRHS Library**

Present: Barbra Noyes, Amey Bailey, Jasmine Sanders, Melinda Johnston, Jack Friedman, Lilly Friedman, Ashley Laufenberg, James Carey, Maeve Lawler, Wendy Rathgeber, Robert Price, Mike Pogue, Ryan Amtmann

* Ryan Amtmann called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
* Introductions
* November minutes were accepted
  + Changes
    - It was stated at the November meeting that ‘Members will vote on a definitive proposal for the school board recommending the consideration of a .5 P.E. credit for sports in March’
  + The phrasing will be changed to ‘Members will vote on a definitive proposal for the school board recommending whether or not to recommend a .5 P.E. credit for sports in March’
* Ryan distributed a pros and cons list to the committee and asked for input on additions to the list
  + Pros
    - Controlling the student – teacher ratio (in the past classes has 16 students enrolled, today they have 35 per teacher)
  + Cons
    - Going against the trend of life long fitness that is emphasized in the P.E. Classes
    - Educated teachers who are informed about physical fitness have developed the course – it should not be overturned lightly due to a scheduling conflict
    - Many students are stressed due to an over abundance of academic work. P.E. provides an antidote for this stress
    - P.E. provides students with the knowledge they need to be active in ‘life long’ physical activities
    - From an administrative perspective, it is hard to define what would and would not count as a substitution
* Updated information about P.E. substitutions and wavers were shared
  + 74% of New Hampshire high schools allow students to substitute an online course as a P.E credit towards graduation credit
  + 33% of New Hampshire high schools allow students to allow participation in interscholastic sports as a substitution for P.E. credit towards graduation credit
* National recommendations (the overarching association for P.E. and H.E.) suggest that states do not allow wavers from the state mandated requirements of P.E. or allow substitutions of other activities such as sports, marching band and cheerleading, for required physical education class time or credit because exemptions or wavers might deprive students of P.E. instruction needed to develop skills for life-long physical activity
* The ELO Policy was discussed
* The State Board of Education and School Board Association recommended that PRHS adopt an ELO Policy
* Permissible policies were created by the State Board of Education and were altered by the school board to prevent certain activities from receiving educational credit (ex: singing in a church choir does not constitute as a music credit)
* Any activity that would be considered would require a certified teacher to administrate the activity
* It was suggested that the administration be more lenient about the current policy that requires all students to enroll in P.E. during their freshmen year of high school to allow for more flexibility with scheduling
  + Bob Price reminded the committee that it is recommended that freshmen enroll on P.E. during their freshmen year due to the difficulty of sophomore and junior year
  + There are 175 students in the current sophomore class. Out of the 175, 10 need to take P.E. after their sophomore year
* Students were asked for their input
  + Students agreed that many of the ‘cons’ were valid
  + Many students end up with a full schedule during their sophomore year which does not include a study hall because of P.E.
  + Although a respect of the importance of the P.E. curriculum was recognized, the .5 credit waver is favorable
  + The academics that are learned through P.E. are more valuable than a sport team experience
  + Scheduling is an issue
* VLACS is an approved and accredited state run program
  + Many students who have taken this option have stated that it is more difficult and time consuming than a physical P.E. class
* Moving forward
  + A proposal will be voted on in March
  + It was suggested that the School Community Counsel recommends not to propose to the school board to allow substitutions for P.E. credit
    - Ryan stated that he wanted a draft proposal that would be presented to community member who are not on the SCC
    - Ryan reminded the committee that part of the job of member is to help inform constituents about the information collected
      * + A draft proposal was agreed upon

The School Community Council does not recommend offering P.E. credit for students who participate in interscholastic sports

Ryan will share an updated pro’s and con’s list as well as the statistics that were previously shared by Ashley Laufenberg

Ryan reminded the committee about the rules concerning voting

* School board members announced that the topic of Senior Seminar was approved as a topic for discussion by the SCC
* Bob Price reminded the committee that although an issue may not be recommended to the school board, there is always potential for it to be brought forth again

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, March 6th, at 5:15pm in the PRHS Library