**SCC Meeting Minutes**

**November 4, 2013**

**PRHS Library**

Present: Ryan Amtmann, , Lisa Ash, Mikala Ash, Amey Bailey , Deborah Brownstein, Will Gunn, Emelia Fleck, Julie Fogarty, Devin Guild, Hannah Karp, Jenna Morrison, Kerri Reynolds , Barbra Noyes, Bruce Parsons, Bob Price, Patricia Rella, Heather Kennedy, Bobby Kretz, Chris Ebner, Andrew Buttolph, Steven Buttolph,

* Ryan Amtmann called meeting to order to 5:15 p.m
* Introductions
* June and September minutes were accepted
* Overview of our last meeting
* Examining Academic Advisory
* Overview of what Academic Advisory currently is for our school
* Members were sent forth to gather feedback from their constituents
* Ryan and Emelia will be collecting ideas and compiling them into a singe document before our next meeting in January to help the committee move forward with what type of plans and models might work best for our school in the future
* Feedback was collected about current issues concerning Academic Advisory and what changes should be made
* The Fine Arts Department talked about accountability
* The lack of accountability (no graduation or grade requirements) is the most difficult issue as far as running the program is concerned
* Accountability would be focused on students without over burdening faculty with another responsibility
* There is no follow up to any of the required activities (busy work)
* The Special Education Department discussed the benefits and structure
* The dynamic has been lost and although it is structured they are seeing students with lack of engagement because it has become so routine within the format
* Student choice was brought forth as an idea to increase the level of engagement amongst all students
* The Foreign Language Department unanimously felt that a change would be welcome and that currently the students are not enjoying the program nor seeing the point
* The English Department did not feel like they had enough prep time for Academic Advisory
* They felt uncomfortable with the counseling aspect
* Student feedback
* Academic Advisory is more geared towards Freshmen and Seniors
* Freshmen Advisory is focused on acclimating into the system while Seniors are focusing more on Digital Portfolios
* Lack of theme for Sophomores and Juniors
* Seniors have not seen the value in most of their Academic Advisory experience (10 minutes is used for work such as surveys, 25 is used for sitting around)
* Students are concerned that Academic Advisory will be used as a time for busy work to fill the allotted 35 minute required time that could be used for class time
* Academic Advisory is valuable in the sense that students have a connection with a teacher although it is so infrequent (from both student’s and teacher’s perspective) that it is difficult to have that connection be strong
* Freshmen representatives feel like they have a better relationship with their teachers rather than their advisors, there is no personal bond, it feels like a forced relationship
* Parental feedback
* Many students feel like they are rushed within their day and do not have time to juggle everything but when given Academic Advisory they are bored with the down time- this is conflicting
* Advisory need to be more dynamic and accelerated based
* The question was asked ‘What departments are not currently represented within the SCC and should those departments have a connection representative from a committee member’?
* Officially Social Studies is not represented
* Ryan will be speaking to all departments that are not currently represented to collect information before our next meeting
* The article Designing Advisories was discussed (available on the PRHS share drive and SCC website)
* Many times successful students hear how successful they are, making the risk factor of not being successful extremely stressful
* This can be as difficult to cope with and as damaging as a lower student hearing that they are not smart
* Students are encouraged to pursue their passion
* Teachers need to believe in the intelligence of every student
* Effort applies to goals
* Deborah offered to contact a PSU teacher who has studied under Carol Dweck to use as a resource for the SCC
* Members were encouraged to peruse the website [www.mindsetonline.com](http://www.mindsetonline.com)
* The Models School Conference (attended by Ryan Amtmann, Bob Price and Lisa Ash, and Julie Fogarty)
* One of the topics presented was Academic Advisories
* Three models were presented
* All schools presenting are trying to figure out where they want to be with Advisory
* Two schools represented were in a similar situation to our school
* Meeting once a month for 35 minutes
* Handouts
* Social connection
* Colchester Vermont
* Combined advisory with Structured Study
* They meet for 30 minutes 4 times a week and are on the same schedule as PRHS
* Monday is a traditional Advisory , which includes setting up a schedule for the week for each individual student
* Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday is spent doing academic work
* Students can use any resource available by signing up to meet with individual teachers, being pre-booked by teachers, work on make up work, independent work etc.) developing the idea of student choice and responsibility
* Ryan handed out the outlined handbook for this model
* There is a strong message about time usage and the structure of Advisory
* A pre-teaching, accelerated driven concept was developed for the entire staff (ex: encouraging students to work ahead of time, offering homework support, facilitating cooperative learning, teaching practicing skills, providing enrichment, career preparation, test reviews , breaking down assessments etc.)
* This program offers an element of choice for students
* 15 schools are currently following this advisory system, including ConVal
* 10 minutes are taken out of every period to have a daily Advisory taking away subject time, not academic time
* The issue of pre planning came up
* It is hard to plan ahead of time for test, many teachers do not give student notice that one is coming up
* Freshmen structured study is very beneficial but the half an hour time frame is constraining
* Many upper classmen do not have study halls making it very difficult to meet with a teacher when a student needs assistance.
* The SCC will be looking at model programs for Academic Advisory for our next meeting in January
* Ryan handed out a Advisory guideline about what the SCC should be looking for as far as re-creating PRHS’s Academic Advisory
* Visit other schools websites in and out of state
* Study different model programs
* The subject of students questioning lack of engagement, statement of purpose, ownership arose
* The question of where the factuality stands with these concerns was brought up
* Do the faculty value advisory?
* Where is the faculty’s ownership?
* What will our students and faculty take ownership of?
* What is the real purpose and value of Advisory?
* The new model should fit the purpose and philosophy of the Advisory
* It is essential that teachers see advisory as a relationship, not as a time slot
* Bob suggested that the SCC collect information about what purpose and philosophy Academic Advisory would like to meet
* The SCC can simultaneously research schools schedules and philosophies and build a philosophy of our own
* The SCC will be collecting what students and faculty would like Academic Advisory to be
* The faculty must be involved with the decision making and be on board in order for the students to believe in the program
* It was suggested that the SCC present the faculty with their research and highlighted possibilities for a new advisory and then collect feedback
* It was suggested that a presentation be made to the faculty outlining the SCC’s ideas and collected research
* The SCC was reminded that Academic Advisory was created for students to have a relationship with an adult mentor that was not academic in nature
* Students are gaining a mentor through Academic Advisory but feel contradicted after learning that many of the teachers are not on board with the ‘counseling’ aspect
* If the faculty is not passionate than the students will not be
* Many students need a role model within the school because they are not provided one in their immediate family
* The SCC will be meeting more often during the 2014 school year

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm

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