**SCC Meeting Minutes**

**September 8, 2014**

**PRHS Library**

Present: Doug Ross, Julie Fogarty, Hannah Karp, Devin Guild, Will Gunn, Robbie Kelly, Amey Bailey, Bruce Parsons, Bob Price, Allison Browne, Maria Sanders, Patricia Rella, Chris Ebner, Adian Temperino, Emelia Fleck, Ryan Amtmann

* Bruce Parsons called meeting to order at 5:15 p.m
* Ryan Amtmann passed out a copy of the SCC bylaws to everyone present
* The committee individually read over the bylaws
* Bruce gave a brief history of the SCC
* Bob Price gave an overview of the bylaws
* The SCC is an open forum open to parents, students and PRHS faculty and support staff
* The voting structure created by the school board and SCC recommended voting members are brought forth to the School Board for approval
* One voting member from each of the seven towns represented
* One voting member from each class (Vice President).
* Five voting members from the faculty
* Two voting members from the support staff
* Bruce Parsons will ask parents during Open House to consider joining the SCC
* This year the faculty will vote on the five members who will be representing the committee
* On September 9th Bob will send out an email informing all faculty and support staff that during the next department meeting (September 9th) faculty members who wish to be considered will put their name forward. Each of the eight departments will have a member represented and the faculty will vote during the next department meeting to determine which five members will be representing the school as voting members.
* This same process will occur with the support staff.
* This process is not delineated by department. Depending on the who the faculty votes for their might be more than one voting member from a department
* The chair can be a faculty or community member and will count as a voting member for their group
* This is assumed and not written in the bylaws
* If a town is not represented and a faculty member would like to step forward as a tax-paying member of the town that would be acceptable
* This is assumed and not written in the bylaws
* A proxy can be sent in place of a voting members absence
* This is assumed and not written in the bylaws
* Bruce Parsons will be bringing forth the names of the chosen faculty and support staff voting representatives to the School Board in October for consideration
* The council will decide (via a vote) who the voting members of each town will be
* Bruce Parsons will bring the recommendations to the School Board in November
* Bruce Parsons opened the floor for nominating a chair to represent the SCC
* Plymouth SCC members were asked if they were interested in being considered to represent the SCC as chairperson
* No one was interested
* Ryan Amtmann was nominated to represent the SCC as the chairperson
* The committee unanimously voted for Ryan Amtmann
* Ryan Amtmann accepted the position as Chair of the SCC
* Ryan Amtmann began with introductions of attendees/members
* Ryan reminded the committee that their most valuable role is to be a liaison for the SCC and collect feedback from their constituents
* Ryan asked Bruce Parsons and Will Gunn to give the SCC an overview of last year’s topic, Academic Advisory, and bring the committee up to date on the outcome and progress
* Bruce Parsons brought the topic forward at the Summer School Board Retreat
* PRHS will be going forward will the current advisory program for the 2014-2015 school year
* The School Board approved appointing a faculty member to study the SCC advisory proposal and to evaluate programs that would benefit PRHS for possible implementation for the 2015-2016 school year
* Bruce Parsons turned the floor over to Will Gunn who will be leading the research on redesigning the advisory program
* Will Gunn spoke about the adopted three step program
* Research
* Effective Design
* PR
* Three visited within New Hampshire have been scheduled to observe effective advisory programs
* Will Gunn invited interested parties to participate in continuing the advisory discussion to share their email to receive updates, participate in discussions and provide input
* Bruce Parsons stated the new program would teach students life skills
* How to check a credit score, finance a car, resume writing etc.
* There are different levels of the program designed for each grade level at PRHS
* The cost for this program is estimated at around $10.00 per student
* Ryan Amtmann reminded the committee the 2013-2014 SCC topic proposals, recommended to the School Board via Bruce Parsons
* Best Grading Practices
* Bring Your Own Device
* In House Tutoring
* The School Board accepted the proposal for Best Grading Practices
* Bruce Parsons related that, after reading reports from the NEASC, the Common Core, Competencies and discussions with parents Best Grading Practices was the best choice for SCC to examine
* The goal of the SCC for the 2014-2015 school year is to examine the grading practices at PRHS, collect feedback from constituents, assess other options from other schools and produce an end-product of a recommendation to the school board about the researched best grading practices within our school
* Selections from the current faculty and student handbook regarding grading practices were handed out to the committee
* The committee was asked to examine and discuss specific entries within the handout
* Homework Policy for Grade 9
* How much credit can be given for late homework
* A common misconception amongst faculty is that credit MUST be given for late homework
* How many days a student has per assignment
* Ryan asked for feedback about the current policy
* Bob Price has researched Best Grading Practices and found an article, *Educations Leadership: Starting the Conversation About Grading*, that he read to the SCC
* Bob Price asked the SCC to consider ‘What are we trying to convey’? ‘What is the purpose of a grade”? ‘Do we add effort, growth, attitude as part of the grade”?
* It was suggested that, before the committee begins researching the ‘micro part of grading’, that the SCC members start investigate ‘the big picture’ by having a conversation about what practices each individual supports
* What are we trying to convey? Who are we trying to convey it to? Why are we giving grades?
* Ryan asked for clarification from the School Board concerning what the actual topic of Best Grading Practices entails
* Is the purpose of this topic for the SCC to examine the grading system overall with the goal of reforming it or is it to simply examine the current grading policy and receive feedback?
* Bob Price stated that the NEASC recommended that PRHS examine our grading practices to assess what we are doing and why are we doing it. The discussion blends into ‘what are our practices’? “Are we okay with our practices”? “Are their misconceptions about our practices”?
* It was stated that the faculty is currently in the middle of switching to competencies and this timing of this topic might be complicated
* Bob Price stated that if every teacher within PRHS was asked what the purpose of grading is that, no matter what the faculty handbook states about the concept of grading is, that everyone would have a different personal policy and philosophy
* In the *competency world* there are policy’s set by schools that state that 95% of grading is based on summative assessments. Can students prove that they understand what the competencies say?
* Ryan Amtmann stated that currently PRHS has a formal grading policy
* There are no official rules concerning late work, weighting grades, how much of a percentage of students grades can consist of homework (with the exception of 9th grade). There is a lot of academic freedom in terms of grading practices between teachers within the same classes and subjects
* The question was asked “would the committee be looking at best grading practices that are available or the best grading practices that are currently already being used within the building?”
* Both
* The question was asked ‘what are we doing with the work that was accomplished over the past two years with Rose Colby concerning competencies’?
* The next step is to analyze assessments that go toward performance indicators and to ensure that a higher level of learning and depth of knowledge is being achieved
* Due to the many different interpretations, Ryan Amtmann will seek clarity from the school board concerning their intention and focus concerning Best Grading Practices
* Amtmann stated that due to this year’s topic that we will be on a bi-monthly schedule for the 2014-2015 school year
* A request to discuss the issue of dress code at the next SCC meeting was brought up
* Bruce Parsons stated that the SCC was not the right forum for this topic and suggested and encouraged that going to the School Board would be a better direction
* The students were very instrumental in creating the current dress code
* Currently there is not a ‘black and white’ dress code policy at the Elementary Schools
* Ryan Amtmann stated that the issue of Dress Code could be a potential topic for the 2015-2016 school year for re-examination

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 3rd, at 5:15pm in the PRHS Library