

## Young Women's College Preparatory Academy

### SDMC Meeting

October 7, 2014

#### Members Present:

- |               |             |                 |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| • D. Thomas   | • M. Rogers | • M. Bowes      |
| • P. Caggiano | • B. Singh  | • S. Campbell   |
| • J. Evans    | • V. Cyriac | • P. Moore      |
| • E. Castillo | • H. York   | • N. Williamson |

3:40 pm, Principal Thomas called the meeting to order

- Grading policy
  - Study hall
    - Not assigning anything
    - Need grades to keep students accountable to work and behavior
    - Study hall grade based on participation only – add to YWCPA grading policy
  - AP Classes
    - AP classes adhere to HISD/AP guidelines – add to YWCPA grading policy
- Early dismissal for middle school during midterm and finals weeks
  - Transportation costs/limitations prohibit separate high school and middle school dismissal
  - middle school early dismissal requires special waiver
  - Bowes spoke in favor of early dismissal – high school students at disadvantage compared to other area high school if forced to stay all day
  - Without early dismissal high school doesn't get enough time at home to prepare for upcoming exams
  - Possibly limited to 2 or 3 early dismissals allowed for middle school each exam week
  - Due to uniqueness and pre-AP nature of our campus, should be allowed special permission for middle school
  - Many middle school taking high school classes (Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish I and II, etc)
  - Thomas moves to approve, Williamson seconds
- SDMC members to chair professional committees
- SDMC Suggestion Box – change block schedule to purely alternating A- and B-Days (regardless of day of week)
  - Sometime have long gaps between seeing A or B classes (up to 5 days)
  - Sometimes have to see A or B two days in a row
  - Option to have all A and B (8 classes) on Friday – not preferred
  - Option for college-style (shorter classes MWF and longer classes Tu/Th) – too significant a change to consider at this time, re-address in summer
  - Concern with alternating A- and B-Days: students will become confused regarding which class they need to go to on Monday
    - Post large letter in cafeteria for students to see in the morning before school
    - Announce before school starts
  - Decision to change calendar effective 10/13/2014
    - Update and re-send out calendar
    - Need to adjust attendance in GradeSpeed
    - Campbell to do call-out

- Flyers to be sent home
  - Announce change during announcements
  - Campbell to create PowerPoint for teachers to display in all classes on Friday (no more than 5 mins)
- Concerns about mid-year changes – may meet with criticism
  - Worth the potential criticism to clear up confusions amongst students
  - This change will ultimately make school easier and more fair for the students – this needs to be the focus of the decision
- Bowes moves to implement, Singh seconded
- SIP Review to be completed in department PLCs
  - Science to do higher-level learners, AP exam
  - Math to do Math
  - English to do Literacy
  - All depts. to supply STAAR feedback
  - All depts. to supply attendance feedback
  - Depts to respond to SIP in one week
- Attendance – tardies
  - Implement date stamp on tardy passes to speed up process
  - Passes must include time and student name
  - Tardy sweeps to be implemented to catch 8:00-8:05 arrivals
- Branding
  - All YWCPA branded products must go through the school store
  - Bumper stickers/magnets/window clings
  - Yard signs for sports/clubs/honor roll
  - Promote **STEM magnet**
  - Need to change/revisit parental agreement – need to bring up parent buy-in to reach the level we aspire to
- Staff dress code
  - Engineering dept requests to have jeans due to work nature – building things, going outside, moving around, etc
  - Jeans could detract from exclusive image that is desired
  - Concern about downward slip of dress code
  - Admin approval for jeans on a case-by-case basis in special situations
  - Address wardrobes that are too casual individually as needed
  - Always professional top, t-shirts on Friday only
  - Decide on jeans/slacks as well as shoes
  - Must consider impression left on visitors
  - Faculty survey to decide in literacy/faculty meeting

5:00 pm Principal Thomas adjourned the meeting

**\*Please note that Mr. Floyd Shaw Specialist, Business Analyst, strongly recommended not to make the recommended change to the A/B Friday Schedule this late in the school year. The change may be considered for the 2015-2016 school year. Principal Thomas will allow the current schedule to remain in place for the 2014-2015 school year.**