

SDMC Meeting

June 2, 2020

Minutes

The meeting convened at 1:00 PM. Principal Perry stated the purpose of the meeting, which was to close out the school year, and introduced the new committee members. Principal Perry reviewed the meeting guidelines. Meetings are usually on a Tuesday. Agenda items should be submitted by Monday. Meetings only convene if necessary. She stated that the committee can continue with virtual meetings, and that the purpose of the SDMC is to discuss issues impacting the school community.

1. Topic: Enrollment

Discussion:

Principal Perry: We are expecting 299 ninth graders; could change over the summer, but that is what we are working towards; total enrollment currently is 940. The budget was determined by an enrollment of 885. We have about 65 more students than what we need. The enrollment numbers can change over the summer. Are there any questions?

There were no questions about this item.

2. Topic: Start of New School Year and Texas Education Agency Proposed 2020-2021 Calendar

Discussion

Principal Perry: We are anticipating starting the year using the original calendar. The district is considering an adjusted calendar with 8/10 as the start date for staff and 8/12 as the start date for students. Nothing has been decided. We will have to wait and see.

Dr. Li: Will there be discussion about this?

Principal Perry: can send comments to the superintendent; there is a committee, but no one from DeBakey as far as I know.

Principal Perry: I understand that the TEA calendar was sent to the regions. Region representatives met and discussed the merits of the calendar. Several school districts have adopted it. It is an 11-month calendar not year-round; based on calendar, school wouldn't end until the middle of June; waiting to hear about the start of the school year: on campus, at home, or both?

3. Topic: School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Discussion

Principal Perry: The SDMC will have to approve the School Improvement Plan in September. We do not meet in the summer unless something urgent happens. The next meeting is in September. Are there any questions or comments?

Mrs. Jafferli: The plan for incoming freshmen in terms of their classes and 4-year plans, what is the plan for students who need Algebra 1?

Principal Perry: Because we could not have Math Academy, we are going to offer Algebra 1 to incoming 9th graders who need it. It could be that these students will take geometry in the summer. Students can't double up in Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus because Algebra 2 is a prerequisite for Pre-Cal.

Mrs. Ake: We also need to think about science because of the Biology and IPC.

Principal Perry: We can offer IPC and Biology at the same time because one is not a prerequisite for the other. Course needs will vary from student to student

Mrs. Ake: I don't think that is shared with the middle schools.

Principal Perry: IPC is part of our curriculum. The State changed IPC as an elective course some years ago. We are the only high school that requires five years math/science. IPC is a great introductory course to prepare them for Chemistry and Physics.

Mrs. Jafferli, did I answer your question?

Mrs. Jafferli: It sounds like students will double up in Geometry and Algebra 2 as sophomores.

Principal Perry: We can determine in the spring. Are there any other questions about the SDMC as a committee?

(No questions)

3. Topic: Summer School

Discussion

Principal Perry: We are trying to facilitate summer school. We usually do our own summer school, but that has changed. Summer school will all be virtual. We must find the funding to provide original credit courses. We are looking at the budget now to see if we can figure that out. We should know something in the next day. All students know that they should be prepared to start summer school Monday, June 8th

Mrs. Adam: What classes?

Principal Perry: Algebra 1B, Biology A, Geometry B, English 1 B. they are saying we must pay for that. Some of the classes are very small. The district is saying those students need to go to their zoned schools. I originally thought I needed 13 teachers. Now I am down to 6. There will be a training Thursday for anyone working summer school.

4. Topic: 6th Cycle Grading

Discussion

Principal Perry: Last semester grading, especially 6th cycle, was a concern. I had to respond to a survey. Some of my responses were that for testing students online there needs to be a form of security. The Teams app needs to be able to accommodate at

least 24 people on the screen. I also said that we should not tell students that a grading cycle does not count.

What can we do to improve testing? How can we make sure students are doing their own work?

Mrs. Adam: Timed tests; maybe open-ended questions; I think that College Board had some incidents of cheating last month.

Principal Perry: If we can put our heads together, we can come up with something. If a teacher could see all students, that might deter cheating a little. Online attendance doesn't mean engagement.

Mrs. Ake: Mr. Stigant had students hold up work to the camera and had them scan it to him. We might think about having proctors work with the teachers. Maybe we need a virtual learning committee.

Principal Perry: Maybe we need a sub-committee.

Mrs. Varghese: I know Ms. Franz scheduled sets of kids at different times so that she could watch the students test.

Principal Perry: Tests should not account for most of a grade. We need to be thoughtful about testing. Testing serves a purpose but is not only measure of student performance.

Mrs. Tapia: What are other teachers thinking about Pre AP placement next year?

Mrs. Adam: I went with Cycle 4 and Cycle 5 grades. I did not include Cycle 6 grades at all.

Mrs. Tapia: I was concerned. I had a handful of kids who didn't do anything.

Mr. Boldman: Is there a way that you could indicate that students did not do any 6th cycle work?

Dean Shargey: 6th cycle grades are on the report cards even though they were not used in the semester grade calculations. The district needs to be careful about what is said to students about grades.

Mrs. Ake: A lot of people were caught blindsided. I drove my kids 9 miles every day so that they could participate. The district should set the bar higher.

Mr. Saldivar: Maybe that could be a PTO initiative to address to the district to explain how grading decision impacted student drive.

Mrs. Jafferli: I think you were one of the exceptions. I spoke to parents who said that the grades didn't count. Yes, but goal is to learn. A lot of parents did not put learning as the priority.

Mrs. Ake: We ingrain in our children to continually challenge themselves.

Principal Perry: Are there any other questions or comments? (No responses) This will be it for this meeting. We will see you in September; if emergency meeting is necessary, I will notify you.

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 PM.