

# Heights High School

## Shared Decision-Making Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

<p><i>Present:</i></p> <p><b>Principal:</b> Wendy Hampton <b>Dean of Instruction:</b> Cristina Bagos <b>Assistant Principal:</b> Wilfredo Montanez <b>Title 1 Coordinator:</b> Elizabeth Payne <b>Registrar:</b> Monica Hawthorne <b>Non-Instructional Staff:</b> Annette Cuellar <b>Special Education Representative:</b> Dawn Moses</p>	<p><b>Teachers:</b> Jorge Batrez, Troy Bullock, Isaac Chao, Rebecca Ozuna, Janet Orfield, Lillian Pope, Michael Shea, Michael Partridge</p> <p><b>Community Members:</b> Emily Cole, Armando Alaniz Parents: Teresa Montgomery, Dianne Holliman, Amy Maddox <b>Business Member:</b> Wendy Tilford</p>
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- I. **Call to Order and Roll:** 4:00pm
- II. **Campus Updates:**
  - a. **Budget:**

Good News:

Academic Bootcamp – 142 courses recovered grades at the winter academic bootcamp.

Updates: Budget a big thing – good news, normally we get all of our budget at the beginning of the year and then meet mid-year. We only received half of our budget at the beginning of the year. We received the rest of our budget and we were over enrolled, so we received extra money. Will be sending an e-mail to department chairs to ask for resources they will need to improve student engagement and virtual instruction.

We do have a couple of major expenses coming up that are more for our extra curriculars: Hampton shares her screen of the track and field. We set aside enough money in the budget to fix the field last year and then fix the track this year. One of the biggest challenges was fixing the sprinklers and that's done. We put out some rye grass seed to help with coverage. Last year we thought we would have to spend \$60-70 thousand to re-sod, but it will not be that expensive, we will have to get more dirt and grass. All sports at Heights use this field. Currently the track is a danger zone, and I am afraid that someone will fall and trip soon. It won't look like this, but it will look nicer and be safer for students. Will run around \$170,000 and last about 20 years. Ozuna

asked if the extra money was from enrollment numbers and Hampton explained that did contribute to the budget.

Orfield also input that there was a lot of trash from community: dirty diapers, watermelons. Can we add more signage for the community? Hampton is going to try and talk more to the community.

Ms. Cole said she would share with the Height association as well for funding to keep it clean and there was a grant for the football field.

Hampton then pointed to the fence in the aerial shot of the bars that are often removed from the fence. They have requested quotes for replacing that part of the fence. Also looking at how to put in some smaller walkthrough gates, easier for the community to use but deter bicycles and strollers which are not great for the surface of the track. That would run around \$50,000. That's what its looking like right now to replace the wrought iron gate.

The other major thing that I don't have any idea how much it will cost is that we have not been able to use our performance hall stage in forever. We were working on it but then in late 2019 and early 2020 there was a structural issue with the stage. There has been some back and forth on who is responsible for the repairs; it's not just a fly issue, it is a structural issue. One of the beams could fall and if it came down with people on the stage it would be catastrophic, so it is her opinion that the district should repair the structural repairs. We would still need to repair the fly purchase and even with those major expenses we have enough funds to purchase resources and get us through to the beginning of next year.

#### **b. Staffing:**

We have a Spanish and art positions since October. We did interview for both but not much available right now. I don't know when those positions will be filled. We do have a good degreed Spanish substitute that is working on her Spanish certification. The helpful thing is she has been paired with another Spanish teacher.

In art we have had someone who is great helping and she has been hired by Northside. Ms. King has been helping with assignments.

We also had a position when Pickrom moved to the dept chair position. Also Ms. Fuller who is retiring. We have not yet hired for the positions. We also have one of our special ed teaching assistants that is retiring in January so that position will also be open.

## **Updates with COVID**

We are in much better shape than some of our neighboring principals. The cases that we know about have not been related to one another at Heights. When parents have called, they usually know where the case has come from. We have hardly any kids here. As much as we are hoping they will come back, they aren't. I haven't checked to see who has updated their preference in the system.

Ozuna asks how to get the selection in PowerSchool to match the preference they have selected in attendance. Hampton: So, part of that is that it has not been updated in the system. We did push for parents to update in the system. When we first began, we had 600 plus students say they would return and we ended up with right under 600 and that number has dwindled over time. If you have students that are attending let us know so we can make the update in the system.

### **III. Old Business/Unfinished Business: NA**

### **IV. New Business**

#### **a. 2021-2022 School Day Schedule:**

Schedule for next school year – at this point we have been told to plan to continue with what's been happening now. In the fall we will have students that are virtual and students that are face to face. We are only considering adopting an official 8 period day because of Covid and continuing the same model of instruction. What we know we will encounter is a higher failure rate, students will need to retake classes, we know that we will need to continue to social distance and keep smaller numbers of students in the hallway and in classes. So, consider adopting an official 8 period block schedule. This would provide opportunity to retake classes for students that are behind, fewer hall exchanges, longer time for synchronous instruction. These decisions must be put in place quickly.

Ozuna would we have enough teachers and room? That was always the issue in the past.

Hampton – I have talked to a few people about master schedule, I have talked to other teachers. We would not need to add more rooms because we will not be adding additional classes in a period.

Maddux – from a parent perspective I love the block schedule. My kids love the block schedule. Not sure how it works adding an extra period. Does it give kids another option of adding a class?

Those are some things we have to look at, yes for some like our diploma students. I have to check policy – if juniors can go off campus. Looking at what our options are for an extra period.

Hawthorne – the last time I checked was at the beginning of the year, as long as they have met the graduation requirements, they can be off campus or office assistants.

Hampton – so that would be an option. Also, would allow to add the course career prep for students who are working so they could work and earn the credit.

There has been some advantage to have the drawn-out period but on B days we have much fewer students.

Ozuna – will we be teaching 6 out of 8 or 7 out of 8?

It will be a 7/8 and will continue the hour-long lunch and add some time from the passing and the second period time.

Orfield – maybe would help the writing teachers and allow more planning.

Hampton - If I could do two off periods I would but can't because then we would need more teachers. Please go and speak with your teams and I don't want to stress teachers but will probably need a special meeting.

Orfield- does that mean smaller classes because we would be redistributing classes, but I spoke with another principal that says it didn't make that much of a difference.

Hawthorne – when I started it was 7/8 – the sizes didn't change much the only thing that affected the other classes were the athletic periods when the coaches weren't available to teach.

Ozuna – how are we going about course selections – especially with how many for each of the courses?

Hampton – we will never know how many freshmen will come in because were magnet and don't know how many zoned students come in.

This year over enrollment in freshmen with 700 students, last year under 600. This year we decreased the numbers of magnet and transfer students and hope that doesn't backfire. We do know the zoned students that have accepted at other schools.

#### **b. Campus Grading Policy:**

We have got to look at this campus' grading policy. Campus grading policy is set by the SDMC. We should only have 60/40 split with no subcategories but we still have teachers with subcategories – can't find anything in Heights handbooks about the grading policy other than two grades per week which is pretty standard. I'm concerned that one grade is not counting too much, and that one grade causes the student to fail.

#### **V. Other: NA**

**Adjourned: 4:55pm**