

Briarcliff PAC meeting minutes

February 7, 2017

Present: Principal Dr. Fran Schlenoff, 6th grade rep Diane Bright, 7th grade rep Marlo Purcell, 8th grade reps Tara Page and Kerry Marinaccio, BC Chair Lydia Spoto, Co-Chair Courtney Hann.

I. Dr. Schlenoff Discussion Items:

- **8th Grade Parent Teacher Conferences:**
There was some confusion about length of these conferences; the start times were staggered to enable parents to move from teacher to teacher, which made it appear that parents would only have one minute per teacher. That is NOT the case. Parents should have ample time to discuss their student. Teachers will contact parents if they, the teachers, feel there is a need for a conference. In the future, Dr. Schlenoff would like to make the Allied teachers available for conferences. The aim of the administration is to meet all conference needs while minimizing disruption to instructional time. The Parent Teacher Conferences are separate and distinct from the high school counselor meetings.
- **Curriculum Meeting:**
The High School curriculum meeting on Thursday, February 9, is for parents of 8th graders. Updated: Due to Snow Day they will take place on Feb. 13th at the same time and place.

II. PAC Representative Discussion Items:

- **How was the H&SA grant money from June 2015 & June 2016 used?**
The H&SA grant from 2015 was used to purchase equipment for the students to set up a TV studio. Staff members are being trained on how to use the equipment and in addition will visit some schools that are running their own studios.

The grant money from 2016 has been, in part, used to buy more Chromebooks for students. The balance will be put towards the Performing and Fine Arts program.

- **What is the latest on the BC Soccer Team, as mentioned in the District Survey?**
 The status of the soccer team is pending. Dr. Mucci is working with High School Athletic Director James Smith to develop a proposal. They are looking at the model of the school's Baseball/Softball program, which is run through the Recreation Department.
- **Time Capsules:**
 Time Capsules will be done in 8th grade in order to better capture the middle school experience for posterity. The 8th grade Social Studies teacher, Ms. Taylor, will contact parents soon with details and instructions. Ms. Taylor is also coordinating with RVS. The Time Capsules will be due June 2, 2017.
- **8th Grade Mid-Terms:**
 A few parents were concerned with the amount of work preceding and overlapping with 8th grade midterms. Midterms were given in every subject and spread out this year. During this time, teachers did not give homework, but students who did not finish classwork did need to complete it at home. Projects that were due during this time had been assigned before the December break so that students and their families could manage their time comfortably. Although the teachers do spend time preparing the students for the midterms, they cannot halt subject instruction. They will, as a team, reexamine the scheduling of the midterms and surrounding coursework.
- **Is the 7th Grade Math Teacher using the Flipped Classroom Model from last year?**
 Not at present. Mrs. Ebersole is using it, so your seventh grader may be watching video lessons at home for Social Studies and working from it in class the following day.
- **Compliments to the 7th grade Math Teacher, Ms. Matschke:**
 Ms. Matschke offered a retest to all students but set requirements for taking it. The students were required to attend a review session with Ms. Matschke, complete a review sheet, and study at home. Great instruction!
- **Ski equipment drop off after school is difficult for working parents:**
 Dr. Schlenoff understands that this can be difficult; however there simply is no place to store it all safely. Please contact the office for specific needs. And vote for the referendum!

- **Advisory Groups:**

These will officially start next school year but teachers will pilot some *Advisory Activities* in PEP classes during the fourth marking period. Teachers are planning the logistics such as: how many times they will meet approximately, what time of day they will meet, how will groups be set up, etc. The goal is for every student to have a special bond with a teacher/staff member at the school whom they can trust. This year they will do *Team-Building Activities* around themes such as stress management, current events, responsibility, etc. The idea is to work through topics as suitable to each group. There is no set curriculum. PAC and parent input on themes is welcome.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities and PEPs:**

Parents of 6th graders would like to know the PEP offerings and extracurricular offerings, such as the school musical and Gifted & Talented, before sign-up so they can advise them. Dr. Schlenoff is happy to share information about PEPs prior to sign up. In the future BC will share a list of PEP offerings with their description prior to student sign-up. Parents also asked if there is a typing PEP available, and yes, there is a typing PEP this marking period.

Parents can also learn about PEPs on the BC Facebook Page and in the BC Newsletter. Information about extracurricular activities can be found in the Student Planner/Handbook.