

GCHS Community Council Meeting 5.14.18

Attending: Dr. Steven Hren, Matt Hoppensteadt, Kathy Williams, Annie Relph, Neely Relph, Heidi Wainer, Janel Arbon, Margy Moreau.

Minutes: Kathy moved to approve the minutes, Heidi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Junior ACT - Dr. Hren compared this year's ACT scores to last years. This year, the average composite was 20.3, the highest since the test has been given to all juniors. The highest composite was 32. Giving the test online this year worked well. Heidi commented that her son appreciated the later state time. (last name W). Janel said with an A name start time was early. Heidi suggested considering having everyone start the test a bit later. Next year they will add schmoop prep to advisory time.

Hiring updates – The site based therapist was originally on a 3 year grant from the free health clinic, this position will now be a district employee like at HMK . Kyle Dern will be the new therapist for the high school. Mr. Stenta will move to a math paraprofessional position, and the school has hired Matt Provart from Wyoming to replace him. Mr. Provart has a geophysics background.

P.E. and English committees are on their 2nd round of interviews. They interviewed for Spanish last Friday and the top two will come teach next week. Matt asked how many applicants they are getting. – this year there have been a bunch, except in math. Matt said they have had a hard time finding applicants at the hospital

Math curriculum changes - Math teachers felt progression and retention of information has not been what they would like. Mrs. Brown says “things are not working the way they should.” So they have adopted a plan where students in Math 1 and Math 2 will use Edgenuity every day to work at their own pace. Teachers will be able to walk around giving students one on one help, and conduct small breakout groups. They have purchased license a 6-12 grade, so other teachers can use it as well. They are using this system at Altamont high school, where they have a blended program using computers along with a tiered program that allows kids to be pulled every week for extra help. Since introduction of this program at Altamont, ACT scores and sage scores have risen. Moreover kids seem to like it.

At GCHS, Mr. Stenta will be in charge of tracking and pulling students out of other classes if they fall behind. Janel asked about the expectations for progression, she expressed concern that kids would slack off if not pushed by the teacher. Dr. Hren said students will have to do a certain amount each week, if they fall behind they will be pulled from other classes to catch up. Neely asked if they would have to make up the work in other classes. Dr. Hren did not know.

This program will help honors level kids who could accelerate through lessons quickly. Teachers are planning on creating honors modules for kids to work on once they finished the Math 1 and 2 requirements.

Heidi asked about the tutorials on screen. She tried Kahn Academy, and her kids had a hard time following the lessons. Janel said she had the same experience. Dr. Hren said that if they do not understand, the teacher is there to explain. Janel asked about grouping kids? Students will no longer be grouped into honors classes since they will all work at their own pace.

Annie asked if there would be an option for students to take a traditional class if Edgenuity was not working for them. – not next year. Annie asked if Math was a low score? - Math is our lowest score in sage. Neely asked if there will be sage next year? - Next year they will use the MAP assessment in English, math and freshman science classes.

English – this year we did not have separate honors classes for sophomores and next year Mrs. Metzler, wants to use a similar system. There has not been any negative feedback from sophomore parents this year and Sage testing had a 6% increase in proficiency. Next year, teachers are going to create ways to differentiate during groups and discussions and honors kids will have extra projects to do.

Several parents expressed concern about no longer having separate honors courses because kids don't want to do more work, they want to go deeper with the work they are doing. Several parents said they have had difficult time encouraging their students to do the extra work required to do the extra honors requirements in science, because their kids don't recognize the value of having honors on their transcript. Even though students are capable and interested, they need to be pushed by someone besides their parents. There was also concern expressed about the behavior of non-honors kids taking class time away from in-depth learning. Margy said the best thing about honors classes was that once her son got into them, he got away from his bullies.

Next year, we are not going to have honors 11 either. Instead juniors would have the opportunity to take a second AP class. Senior year they can also take the current AP English class.

Regence – the state has changed the program for next year. There will no longer be tiered levels, everyone who qualifies will get the same reward. All applicants will have to fill out the FAFSA. Students must have physics, chemistry and biology. The 3.5 credits of social studies has been reduced to 3. Math 1-3 must have been completed as well a 4th credit of math. Physics with tech will no longer qualify (we don't offer this).