**Julian PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Monday January 14, 2019**

**7-8:30 pm**

**Present:**

Bobbi Eastman, Cynthia Brito, Wendy Barrett, Todd Fitzgerald, Lori McConnell, Elizabeth Chi, Michele Gurgas, Melanie McQueen, Debra Woods, Margaret Hudgons, Jason Wolkowicz, Denise Frank, Annelisa Dusterberg (8th Grader), Ryan Scott (6th Grader), Lauren Olsons, Jamie Winchell

**School Improvement Plan Team Update** (Todd Fitzgerald)

In June 2018, a team met to create a School Improvement Plan (SIP). Two main goals:

1. Every OP D97 student is a confident and persistent achiever. (A number of subtasks are under this topic that teachers are working on).
2. Every OP D97 student is known, nurtured, and celebrated learners. (A number of subtasks are under this topic that teachers are working on including an emphasis on restorative circles, classroom culture and climate, and recognition of racial biases.)

A number of these activities are focused on during Wednesday morning meetings in which a teacher takes up a topic, researches it, and then presents their learning to the group. The groups then take that info out to the classroom where they work with the students and then they come back to the Wednesday morning meeting to share their findings. These activities are very similar to what Brooks is also doing.

Learning Sessions and Inquiry Circle/ Pineappling / Learning Walks. Teachers perform reviews and teacher-to -teacher assessments to record teaching strategies, then review the student results (Unit Assessments), then teachers reflect on their teaching results or how to improve their teaching or their teaching units.

Q: Are the above tasks taking more time or time away from other aspects of teaching.

A: This is something that is merging into other improvement plans at the school. Many of these activities are pilots and we are currently building these plans out.

Q: Unit assessment. Are the teachers taking in student input?

A: It is not direct student feedback. One of the rubrics is having the student look into the instructions of the assignment. Through that process, student feedback is incorporated into the units.

Q: In high school there are “finals”, the 8th graders do not have a “final”. The children do not have study skills nor testing skills. We are not training the 8th Graders for freshman finals testing.

A: Julian middle school specifically does not have trimester exams. There are tests that students take that cover a considerable amount of material during their normal cycle. It is unlikely that the Middle School will have tests like that. In Middle School, we are trying to keep anxiety down and help student learn. The Middle School does not have a “study skills class”.

Q: Can the school think about an Integrated Studies class on study skills? Or a weekend workshop?

A: A review of study skills is happening independently in various classes.

Q: Historically there is a spilt between people who want more “academic rigor” vs “too much homework”. The rubric in IB helps children learn to succeed and if the child can’t figure out the rubric, then the parents needs to step in and work with the teachers to help them.

**Library / Media Center Update** (Jamie Winchell)

Ms. Winchell’s goal is to help teach kids research skills and for the space to act as a public library. The library also has a green screen activity; global read aloud (writing postcards to people across the world); maintain the hard copy and digital library collection (new e-book grant received); the library has a new collect on marginalized groups; sponsors author visits; and provides lunch time support for students.

Looking for new chairs for the Book Fair. The Book Fair had the lowest sales this fall from the past three years, may not continue Book Fair but will evaluate.

In the future, she can work on developing study skill workshops if that is a need.

They are buying 8 new comfy chairs for the library.

**Culture and Climate at Julian** (Lauren Olson, Annelise Dusterberg (8th), Ryan Scott (6th)

Olson: The Culture and Climate group is new to Julian for the past 2 years. She is working on building systems to support kids. Social emotional learning, PBIS, restorative practices, etc. to create a system which will support the kids.

We have new Culture and Climate positions at the school. Six teacher leaders who meet to discuss this topic. They look at data, etc. to help lead changes in the school. They have a rejuvenated “behavior expectations matrix” which emphasizes behavior expectations set at the school. (Student input – the school climate varies depending on where you are located and your peer. i.e. the library is a good place but others may not be.) Townhall is very helpful; three volunteers from each team are present to help convey student feedback to the administration. (Students input – it feels great to go to townhall and have a voice in the school.) Townhalls: 30 students per townhall meeting, meet monthly, and it is diverse and representative of the student population. The student volunteers participate throughout the year. Q: How to get the townhall topics out to the parent population. A: Dr. Fitzgerald can provide updates in the Middle School Matters newsletter. Q: To Students: What was the best change you saw? A: Students wanted to walk through their schedules during the first day of school; and that change was implemented. Q: To Students: Do you feel your fellow students are aware of the work you do in Townhall? A: No. The administration doesn’t really announce it as ”Townhall” but they mentioned is as “Advisory Board Meeting”. The student body doesn’t really know what Townhall is doing. In the future, they want to have the students in Townhall be point people for their groups to help with school change. Q: To Students: Any other ideas or forums to help create a more integrated culture? A: Students: Kids can get to meet other kids by joining clubs. Advisory Olympics really helps us meet new people. Q: How to help communicate to the student’s about all of the clubs? A: They had a meeting with booths to help introduce kids to the clubs in the school.

HERO: A new tool where adults can provide positive feedback to students. Goal: Students to be on time to class. They can shop at a school store with the HERO points they earn. Student: They think it is a really good program but he is not a big fan of it because getting kids to class on time is hard and getting a “digital point” is not physical. He thinks if your late to class you should have a more “physical” consequence.

**Budget** (Lori McConnell)

No comments.

**Committee Updates**

***Diversity*** (Cynthia Brito, Melanie McQueen)

Social Justice Student Club initiative.

Equity Policy work with D97.

Sexual harassment policy work with D97.

Black History Month initiative beginning.

Any DivCo event at Brooks is open to all Julian students.

***Green/Wellness*** (Elizabeth Chi/Denise Frank)

We received the $11,000 grant for a number of assemblies throughout D97 by the “rap-activist”. One assembly will be open to the community and will be held in the evening. At Julian, we will have 3 assemblies, the IB leader will help shape the content, and will need to create a tool to measure the success.

Meet with D97 leadership to help create a top down leadership and / or strategic plan for Green activities at the school.

A check list is being developed for Green activities at PTO events.

***Volunteer Coordination***

Honor Roll Breakfast – it was a success. The 8th Grade attendance was very high for that grade level.

***Winter Carnival*** *(Michele Gurgas)*

The PTO has organized a Student Winter Carnival in lieu of the Halloween Dance. The Carnival is a student event that will be held on Friday 1/25/19 from 7-9 pm and will have a DJ, games, popcorn, cotton candy, nachos, and a hot chocolate bar. Admission is $5 and includes food tickets for a limited number of snacks.  Additional food tickets can also be purchased at the event.  Scholarships are also available for students, please inquire at the ticket booth during lunch sales. We need volunteers!

**Approval of the November 2018 Minutes**

No minutes to approve.