

## MS PAC Meeting

Oct. 14, 2009

6 p.m.

### Attending:

Colburn Shindell

Ilana Rugg

Ruth Adams

Shirley Llorens-Chen

Ann Marie Craddock

Linda Cursio

### Old Business:

Assessments appropriate as outlined on the class syllabi

Discussion: What is the content of the material in class? Is there a balance between memorization and creative thought? Is there a focus on the process of learning?

**ACTION: Mr. Shindell to meet with Ann Marie for further discussion and will present and review with the teaching staff**

### New Business:

- Distinction of +, -, (A+, A, A-)

Discussion: The majority of the members felt that the differentiation in the grading system is helpful; it allows for recognition of effort and achievement

**ACTION: None**

- Head Master's list, honor roll, effort assessments

Discussion: Most felt it is important to recognize achievement as well as extraordinary effort. Mr. Shindell has an effort rubric that may be used to define those students who display outstanding effort. An effort honor roll or recognition at quarterly assemblies may be warranted. Linda suggested a private letter sent home for those students who qualify for Headmasters'/Honor Roll without public recognition.

**ACTION: A letter or certificate will be mailed home to students with outstanding achievement; consider a forum to recognize students who display exemplary effort.**

- Discipline –appropriate level for majority of students

Discussion: the discipline cards used in the classrooms are used to delineate patterns within the classroom; the cards are not meant to be punitive.

**ACTION: None**

Discussion: there has been mention of a "clean card" party that may exclude those students with even minimal infractions.

**ACTION: Mr. Shindell to investigate**

- Purpose of summer reading and essay

Discussion: It is unclear as to the direct purpose other than to keep students engaged while on summer holiday, to expand their literature experience, and to provide a baseline writing sample at the beginning of the school year. The possibility of selecting from a list of acceptable titles was proposed.

**ACTION: Mr. Shindell to discuss the summer reading program with Dr. Nickles; Linda to suggest an appropriate list of historically based literature for the seventh and eighth grades.**

- Uniforms-logo on pants, skirts and brand  
Discussion: Mr. Shindell made reference to his October newsletter which will address this topic. Lands' End provides the most choices for the students and the readily visible logo allows easy policing of conformity. Exceptions to the Lands' End brand can be made but this decision is on an as-needed basis (per Mr. Shindell).  
**ACTION: None (see October letter)**
- Extension of after school study program and standard pickup time. Cost parameters.  
Discussion: Changing the pickup time for afternoon study hall to 5:30 pm would allow working parents more time if their workday ends at 5 pm. However, this would inconvenience the teachers.  
**ACTION: Mr. Shindell to discuss with teaching staff.**
- Requirement of participation in an after school activity  
Discussion: Participation in after school athletics and arts provides a more comprehensive experience for our middle school aged children. Exceptions can be made for students who have longstanding participation in a year round activity (on a case by case basis per Mr. Shindell).  
**ACTION: None**
- Athletics-leaving school early for games  
Discussion: as members of the Tah-Neva league, we are required to travel to the Tahoe area for all away games. This amounts to substantial travel times which cannot be amended.  
**ACTION: None**
- Student-Led conferences  
Discussion: Are the student led conferences helpful to parents and students? It is enlightening for students to discover their own strengths and weaknesses but the process is very time consuming. Mr. Shindell has considered a different format for the 5/6 grades vs. the 7/8 grades.  
**ACTION: Mr. Shindell and the grade leaders to consider revamping the process with an in-depth review of one class per semester.**
- Daily Homework Load  
Discussion: Students have been logging time expended for homework. The data that has been reviewed to this point suggests that most grades are spending the recommended time.  
**ACTION: Continuation of data assessment**

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Next meeting: November 11, 2009 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Adams, M.D.