

US PAC

9/10/09

Members Present: Jon Cook, Mark Lowenstern, Craig Robinson, Leslie Stephens, Janet Lowe, Gaye McCollum-Nickles, Darla Garey-Sage, Anne Barnes, Paul Helms; Tracy Stephens.

Absent: Karen Gabriel.

Student Government Report—Leslie Stephens

Last week: Freshmen welcome week w/ games; went well;

Dance Friday w/ 38 students (highest attendance)

Thursday: Student gov't retreat w/ brainstorming

Movie night, dances, dinners—new ideas

No dates set yet; will look to master calendar

Student body VP and P run town meetings and most of student meetings

Faculty Report--Jon Cook

Outdoor Ed: Juniors leave on Sunday; other grades leave Monday. All will return Friday.

Students will attend Air Races Saturday with Air Club (17 students)—open to other students as well.

Administrative Report--Dr. Gaye

Master Calendar: up and running; parents can print it out at home from website; but events are posted. Last year: events not well publicized, so this year events/activities are posted on master calendar. Student gov't activities, grade level activities, science club haunted house, etc. also posted.

First Friday: Upper School Coffee House begins October first week. Beginnings of Coffee House were spontaneous from student's desire to perform. All School coffee houses discouraged US students because of time constraints (Middle School students perform first), so US will give it a try and see if we can bring performance back to US.

Test Calendars: try to avoid clumping of tests and assignment. Historically, previous to grade leader meeting, teachers assign assessments and

students may be heavily burdened. Oct. 21 is the end of quarter, and Dr. Gaye has sent out notice asking faculty not to clump assessments on this last week; spread assessments throughout quarter so that everyone, students and faculty alike, have more time to complete and assess assignments.

Outdoor Ed: integral part of the SRS curriculum. Headmaster Bill Heim and US Division Head Gaye McCollum-Nickles going through US curriculum, looking at how outdoor ed meets guidelines of curriculum; outdoor ed is part of community and character development as detailed in curriculum guidelines. Colburn Shindell is the director of outdoor ed; he will be writing up a description of outdoor ed's role in the middle school curriculum and then then he and Gaye will write it for the US.

Policy effective immediately: Without physician-signed medical excuse, absence from Outdoor Ed is considered to be 5 unexcused absences, and students must add 5 hours per day of community service (don't have to do it that week, but must fulfill before end of year). To be implemented during this school year.

Next year, policy will be that four years of attendance of Outdoor Ed is part of graduation requirement.

Freshmen seminars: List of topics covered for freshmen.

Student Parent Handbook --Cliff Notes version for freshment seminar so that students comfortable with content.

School security: Faculty assigned various entrances/exits to watch; faculty makes strong effort to know all parents/cars, etc.

Homework Exercise: Student schedules, including extracurricular activities (piano for example), dinner, sleep, and homework plotted and meshed with guidelines for homework; meshes well in middle school but by upper school, students must take advantage of other strategies: most important is faculty posting homework 2 weeks out so students can plan ahead.

Students also need to use study halls productively

Break: clubs one day per week; can get a jump on homework during break, but then no mental break, so use breaks and lunches well...

PAC needs to let Gaye know how this is going:

Senior Give Back Hours: seniors must use eight of their community service (cs) hours on campus as a way to give back to school, so they get one half hour of cs hours per one hour of actual service because they aren't doing any of the organization or transportation work. Fold seniors back into the community.

Research about US; present info to US parents and to MS parents. Use

blind form to show test results and college placement, but the most important information is that students place in good colleges, even those with non-‘stellar’ test results.

PA Report--Darla Garey-Sage

Coffee Cart idea pitched to PA; lukewarm response. PAC will form a subcommittee to explore ideas and present written proposal. Members: Joan Spillech, Craig Robinson, Anne Barnes, ex officio DGS)

Lunch in loft—Men Wielding Fire is no longer serving in US Loft because of labor cost; discussion of need for high school students to be able to have lunch in their own environment. As yet, no resolution.

Discussion Items:

College Counseling--Karen and Janet. Could Andrew start working with the students earlier in the process, helping them make sure they are on the right path? The UC art requirements, for example; students should know early in the process. One parent thought individual meetings for the students with Andrew maybe in the fall with students would keep them on track and help keep them focused. Dr. Gaye reported that Andrew Quinn speaks in freshman seminar and addresses many of these questions.

College tours--Darla. Some Juniors are saying they don't want to miss their AP classes to attend the tours. Dr. Gaye said that this is a school trip, with student work kept in mind, and that students should not defer the trip out of this worry.

Tracy—Could Andrew Q send earlier reminders of dates for trips, deposits, college nights, etc.? Gaye will check with him.

Flu Shot--Mark.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN:
State document governs school response. Not going to bring in an agency to administer shots; going to recommend people go get shots. Pat Casey can write up a condensed plan for parents from the state document. Mark L. suggests the condensed version be emailed out to entire community; be proactive against flu. Gaye will talk to Pat.

Extra curricular requirements—Paul.

Now posted on website and not in directory anymore.

Debate: can be either extracurricular or club, depending on how student participates.

Comments--all.

Mark Lowenstern: Some discussion lately of Sage Ridge students leaving at the high school level...Mark and Joan did extensive research in looking for a high school (all over the country) and they believe SRS is one of the finest schools on west coast. Mark suggests that SRS doesn't promote itself strongly. Gaye requests Mark to write this down because it's an important message and one we need to hear...and we need to spread our message. When Gaye was east attending a conference we interacted with prep school staff who were very impressed with SRS, but prior to the conference had never heard of us.

Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.