

Mark T. Sheehan High School

PTAC

Minutes of Meeting: January 5, 2017

In attendance: Mr. Dirkson, Ms. Duthie, Ms. Koepfer, Ms. Mansfield, Ms. Palange, Ms. Raccio, Ms. Sabo, Mr. Wiesen

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. The minutes from the December meeting were read and accepted by Ms. Palange and seconded by Ms. Sabo.

Presentation on the Results of the CT Health Survey

A joint meeting with Lyman Hall will be held on February 2 at which Craig Turner and Celeste Jorge will present the results from the high school CT Health Survey. A conversation took place as to the pros and cons of hosting this meeting at the HUBCAP. The HUBCAP does provide a neutral site, but also presents some logistical issues with respect to parking, especially if there is snow. The group decided to host the event at Sheehan. It was also suggested that February 9 be the snow date as that is when Lyman Hall is scheduled to hold their PTAC meeting.

Student Leadership

Based on our Journey Mapping activity conducted in November, student leadership was selected as a goal that the Sheehan PTAC would address this year. Ms. Mansfield explained that we were looking for ideas to promote student leadership for all grade levels -- something that PTAC could sponsor and promote. Ms. Duthie reminded the group of past PTAC leadership conferences as well as shared how members of the National Honor Society conducted activities with freshmen last year during advisory to develop their leadership skills. Programs in the past have targeted both students who are already perceived as leaders as well as students who may be disconnected from the school.

Ms. Palange asked about some existing programs, such as the Chick Fil-A leadership program, and how students can extend their involvement and/or promote more students to get involved in the program itself. Ms. Mansfield shared that the focus of our previous conversations was to increase the involvement for students who are not involved currently. Ms. Sabo reminded the group that many of the opportunities for leadership are in place for the juniors and seniors, but not for the underclassmen, and volunteered to be a part of a committee to create these opportunities.

Ms. Mansfield was interested if there were organizations in place currently, student groups, that could be connected to this, as well as a target audience for the program. The group discussed what the options are for the leadership program such as, a portion of the day or a full day activity, hands-on problem solving (Ms. Palange shared examples such as designing a wallet or building with a deck of cards). Ms. Mansfield suggested that we prioritize the goals for the leadership program and then design the program to meet these needs/areas.

Ms. Duthie suggested that we create a “leadership series” so that we would be able to move students through the program within a year or their academic career. Ms. Koepfer agreed that the group needs to move through all the programs so that the students can gain and practice

the skills. Ms. Mansfield stressed that we need to teach them the knowledge of leadership while also providing the applicable skills. She explained that we focus on WHAT the students need to learn and then the Now What is how they use the information. Ms. Duthie suggested that if we are having the students go through a series, then we would ask them at some point to demonstrate their learning to show what they have gained. Ms. Mansfield suggested that the creation of a leadership committee could come from this and we have to consider the end result.

We discussed the number of the target audience as well and the need was stressed for the session to be interactive for students. Suggestions were for students to tweet during the presentation or submit answers through a quiz program. Ms. Mansfield asked for volunteers who would like to look into the different leadership programs. Ms. Raccio suggested that students could take the Myers-Briggs assessment so that students could be properly placed in different groups to receive a more focused program. Ms. Sabo volunteered to look into this to share at the next meeting. Ms. Duthie explained that there would be funds available if needed and Ms. Mansfield suggested that we look at the community for the leaders who immediately surround us who would be interested in coming in and speaking to the students.

Ms. Raccio promoted the idea that we look at other available accrueable hours for community service to include some of activities that happen during the school day or school sponsored events. Ms. Mansfield and Ms. Raccio suggested that the information be shared more openly with parents and students about how the students can get recognition for the community service that they are completing. Recommending students for recognition at the Wallingford Youth Awards was suggested.

System-wide PTAC (SWPTAC) Update

Ms. Raccio shared the following:

- The next meeting will be held on January 17 at 6:00 p.m.
- A Superintendent Coffee-Talk will be held on January 11 in which all parents are invited.
- All the budget meetings are public meetings and parents are encouraged to attend.
- Ms. Raccio explained some upcoming conversations for SWPTAC including bus routes and bus camera updates from Redflex, Wallingford PD, and Durham as well as budget.

Budget

Ms. Duthie recommended that parents attend the budget meetings on January 9 and January 18 as these meetings will provide a comprehensive overview of the district budget.

Door Prize Drawing

Ms. Sabo won the door prize, which was a power bank.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.