

Mark T. Sheehan High School

PTAC

Minutes of Meeting: November 3, 2016

Present: Ms. Brozyna, Mr. Dirkson, Ms. Duthie, Mr. Lambert, Ms. Lavalette, Ms. Mansfield, Mr. Marciano, Mr. Oblon, Ms. Palange, Ms. Sabo, Mr. Wiesen

The minutes were reviewed and approved by Ms. Palange and second by Ms. Sabo. Ms. Duthie introduced Ms. Lavalette.

Ms. Duthie distributed the directions for the Journey Mapping activity to the group and provided clarifying information. Working independently, each person listed the events in their child's day from morning to end of school day and what they thought were the bright spots for their child. Ms. Duthie then assigned each person to a group and station, making sure that at least one parent was a member of each group. The groups discussed their bright spots and listed them on poster paper. They then completed a gallery walk and shared ideas.

At 7:00 p.m. the group came together and had a discussion to share thoughts and similarities. The group agreed that teachers as mentors was apparent in all lists. Ms. Palange explained how select classes are bright spots in students' lives. Ms. Sabo discussed the importance for a balance between the content and the teacher engagement. Ms. Duthie noted the school day does not end at 1:55, and students are engaged beyond the school day. Ms. Mansfield shared how her children love their teachers and their joy to come to school.

Ms. Duthie spoke about a student's desire to become a young adult. Ms. Lavalette shared her daughter's experience when she was in high school. She highlighted the experiences her daughter had in the tech ed department and extra help sessions. Ms. Duthie spoke about the students' need to talk to and interact with their teachers. Ms. Mansfield added the school and career counseling resources are a bright spot. The newsletter is also a bright spot for information.

Next, each person was asked to identify areas of growth in their child's day. As before, everyone gathered with their group to share information and develop a list. Ms. Duthie instructed everyone to complete a gallery walk and to note their top three choices from the information presented on the posters. After the gallery walk, everyone reassembled to share their top three choices. Ms. Duthie listed each person's selection on posted paper and placed a checkmark next to those items that were repeated. The list included: lunch, too much freedom, purpose of grades, consistency of levels and grades, underrepresented groups, leadership opportunities for all, public speaking, and technology (infrastructure, up to date hardware).

Ms. Duthie asked the PTAC members if the items with the most checks are the items on which they would like to focus for the year. Ms. Lavalette mentioned that the parents chose the leadership opportunities and underrepresented groups. Mr. Dirkson suggested leadership

opportunities may be a better item to define and work with. Ms. Duthie informed the group about past PTAC leadership conferences. Mr. Wiesen spoke about leadership opportunities in the classroom and having teachers being more aware of when that happens.

The next item was the System-wide PTAC update. Ms. Mansfield spoke about the parent feedback and conversations at System-wide PTAC concerning mastery-based learning. She suggested a new timeline plan in order to address the parent and student concern about the speed of implementation. Ms. Mansfield spoke about the rollout and the need for technology to be in place and the pilot should not be all students. Ms. Duthie spoke about the standards and indicators development in the various areas. Ms. Duthie asked if the school could message anything better to help parents and students. Ms. Mansfield explained that the communication has to come from the district level (cake out of the oven too early metaphor). Ms. Mansfield stated that parents at the high school level, in particular, were demanding it be stopped at that level.

Ms. Duthie spoke about the close of term one grades and every group adjusting to the changes in grading and homework. Ms. Mansfield spoke about the desire to have this rolled out the right way. Ms. Mansfield spoke about the parent representation from Sheehan at this meeting and how parents felt the teachers at Sheehan have been great and gone above and beyond.

Ms. Duthie provided an update about the sound system on the football field and shared that 63% of classroom teachers are using Google Classroom in some capacity.

The door prize drawing (choice between Samaha Bowl tickets and a power bank) was held. Ms. Mansfield won but declined. Mr. Oblon won the drawing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.