

# Gunn Site Council Meeting

Previous Meeting: [10/10/16](#)

Current Meeting: [11/7/16 @ 7 pm](#)

Next Meeting: 12/5/16 @ 4 pm

## **Attending:**

Site Council members: Denise Herrmann, Toni Smith, Darlene Feldstein, Yukie Hikida, Jane Dick, Ani Gnanalingam, Jen Schultz, Myesha Dickson, Catherine Wang, Kathy Liu, Hanna Suh, Adriana Aro, Deanna Messinger, Jackie Selfridge

Alternate: Sunita Verna

Visitors: Paul Sakuma, Eli Tannenwald, Joanne Michels, Pauline Her, Micah Alon, Ankit Ranjan,

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by co-chair Yukie Hikida.

## **Open Forum**

There were no guests for Open Forum.

## **Old Business**

The [10/10/16 Meeting Minutes](#) were approved with the following changes:

Change students to Juniors in paragraph about PSAT tests

Miriam Stevens -> Miriam Stevenson

Ani Gnanalingam (correct spelling)

No abstention

## **School Improvement Update**

Common Core: This agenda item is postponed until December.

Principal Denise Herrmann introduced Joanne Michels, who gave an update on the newly opened Gunn Wellness Center located across from the main office (in the old attendance office), which serves as a non-judgmental space for students to de-stress and to talk about issues. The Wellness Centers at both high schools work through a school-community approach, and review policies & procedures in different ways to help our students and staff. It takes a village of help: Students and Families, Mental Health Therapist, Wellness Outreach Worker, RN/Health Technician, School Counselors and Psychologists, Master Social Work Intern, Educational Staff, Administration, Community. Students visit for short breaks, nursing services, counseling, health resources, student groups, tea, snacks.

Newly implemented program called *WISH*: Wellness Integrated Services Hub to track visits and usage of Wellness Center. They also promote wellness around campus through efforts such as Unity Day. Also practice wellness in a green way by partnering with 'Zero Waste Partner.' This is a mug program where students pick up or drop off a mug. Staff is welcome, and the Center's work involves families as well. What can Site Council do to support Wellness Center? Wellness Center has no running budget, yet (since it was added in May 2016). Could use support with funding and donations from the community, especially regarding snacks, tea, mugs.

Dr. Herrmann gave an update on staff PLC (Professional Learning Communities). Teachers began meeting last year in PLCs (by course) to collaborate & plan. This year, goal is for PLCs to each complete PLC cycle of inquiry to define Essential Learning Outcomes, common assessments to check students' progress on ELOs (how are teachers checking for accuracy and measuring for learning?). What will we do for the student who didn't learn, provide interventions, more flex time. What will you do for students who already know it? We wanted to make sure that all teachers went through the 4 questions of inquiry for each content. PLCs used the first 9 weeks of school to focus on the first part of the cycle as a 40 day challenge. Later several teachers went to a follow up conference and spoke with the PLC leaders and they scheduled a fall visit at Gunn where Gunn will be featured in one of the presenter's texts. Next step is for PLCs to plan interventions for students who are not reaching the defined ELOs. Interventions range from in-class assistance, flex time usage, math interventionist & literacy interventionist for consultation with students, and incorporating diagnostics, and potentially additional avenues yet to be designed. Staff will be presented later in the year with an opportunity to incorporate more flex time. Student question: could PLCs be used to increase consistency in courses? Yes, that is one of the goals of PLCs, and it is a District goal. Several departments are currently very consistent with their assessments and curriculum.

**Dr. Herrman: The Principal's Report:**

She passed out the Safe Learning Environment & Comprehensive Safe School Plan 2016-17, which we approved with changes last May, for our final approval. Titan 101 will be changed to Titan Connect, ROCK/Sources of Strength will be added, alternative lifestyles will change to "non-traditional family structures", and tenses and other grammatical issues will be corrected. Consensus approved, with changes.

Year Book Photo Update: She reported that Mark Gleason & Lisa Hall worked hard to pick this photo provider. Feedback is positive on the provider, but parents are appreciative of continued work to improve access. Ani Gnanalingam reported that only 3 people indicated in August that would be willing to carpool. Adriana Aro pointed out that many of the students who may have access needs would not necessarily notice & respond to parent/PTSA email outreach. Catherine Wang suggested that some outreach go directly to students through SEC. Yearbook, with PTSA support, will bring photographer to campus once for those students who cannot get to studio. Denise and Deanna will follow up with Mark Gleason and get a list of students who haven't taken their photos or have a hardship. There is no fee for just taking photos to be in the yearbook.

Weighted Grades Update: Went to the school board last Tuesday night. Many spoke in favor of the weighted grades. Others sent emails to board members of not in favor. There are pros and cons to both. The PAUSD board voted 5-0 in favor of weighted grades on the transcripts. Gunn and Paly will incorporate the weighted grades on the transcripts sent in January 2017. This is a larger change for Paly, which did not report

weighted grades. Board will establish a committee to recommend a GPA calculation method to be consistent between both schools, to begin 2017-18 school year. Current Gunn calculation method is complex, and Denise is preparing an explanation to share with the parent & student community because it is not well-understood. Honors classes will only receive the appropriate unweighted grade unless the UCOP (University of California Office of Presidency) counts those courses as honors as well. The district office is checking each course to verify whether or not the honors classes will count as weighted.

### **Upcoming PTSA Events**

Jen Schultz

Turkey Feast coming up, but sign-ups for donations are low. PTSA will refocus on getting donations after the Election is over, with hopes we can get enough turkeys donated to keep the event. They will let us know if the turkey feast will happen on Monday of next week.

Dan Siegel parent ed event on the Teenage Brain. Event is currently sold-out but PTSA is looking to release more tickets.

### **Teacher Report**

Toni Smith

Deanna reported that the Visual Arts classes will have a show of their Baylands-based artwork at the Eco Center in February.

Toni updated on several topics: teachers are interested in more info on the Site Council grant process. We will have a budget by our next meeting in December. Computer Science Principles students gave presentations leading up to Homecoming on topics of personal interest. Focus on Success in A period needs volunteer tutors (for bio, chem, physics, Spanish 1, 2, 3, math). Parents asked Nicole to email them directly and they will send out emails to volunteers. Bikes & equipment recently donated to Gunn ReCYCLEd program were assessed by Mike's Bikes professionals. The Crucible is being performed November 3-12 in the Studio Theatre.

### **SEC/Student**

Alvin Hom

Homecoming Week was great. Thankful for pizza and barbeque. Joint dance with Paly on Saturday used both gyms. Over 2200 people attended (exceeded expectations). October 26 was Unity Day with ball pit. Harvest Festival and Haunted House October 30-31, raised \$1000 for Packard Hospital.

### **Parent Report**

Jen Schultz

1) There is some concern that the anti-wgpa contingent didn't speak up; request for email to parents with summary of Gunn's calculations and reasons behind weighted grades.

2) There is a concern that Schoology is sending out missing assignments notes when actually just haven't been graded, causing stress for students. Darlene will take this concern to Chris Bell.

3) Standards-based grading - some parts of science & math departments are doing this (with some world language teachers also doing pieces of standards-based grading). Is there way for students to give feedback? Can any other department do it? Can parents be given more info? Parents are encouraged to reach out to those teachers for more info (then the Instructional Supervisor, then the appropriate Assistant Principal).

4) WASC - our plan states we should do survey at end of semester for students. Do we have access to current survey? What will we do with info? (Which survey? Need to get more info on this question.)

5) Concern that some Flex sessions overcrowded and so students can't see teachers.

6) Central lockers given that we are in building process? Parent perspective is that many students would like this. New central building might be a good opportunity to assess need and build into plans, if desired. Denise will work with SEC to assess student interest in lockers.

### **Site Council Business**

Denise Herrmann

- a. Evaluation Sign Ups (Present in March or April) - postponed to December
- b. 2016 Updated Meeting Calendar and Agenda is online
- c. Bylaws approval (signed by Site Council members)
- d. Site Council Duties: Darlene presented online Site Council resources (meeting area of our Site Council web area). Darlene is working on a distribution list for Site Council.
- e. Round Robin.
- f. Approve the minutes for November 7, 2016. Link to [Gunn Site Council](#) in closing.

Next meeting: December 5, 2016, 4 pm, Staff Lounge