

GUNN HIGH SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

Minutes - *APPROVED April 16, 2018*

March 5, 2018 -- 4:00 PM

Attending:

Principal: Kathie Laurence
Staff Reps: Adriana Aro, Darlene Feldstein, Josh Little, Kristina Granlund, Yukie Hikida, Deanna Messinger
Student Reps: Arunim Agarwal, Kim Fenwick, Kathy Liu, Hanna Suh,
Parent Reps: Jane Dick, Ani Gnanalingam, Jen Schultz, Carolina Morales Liu
Visitors: Janey Pratt, parent

STANDING ITEMS

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Hanna Suh.

Open Forum: There was one visitor to address the Site Council during Open Forum.

Janey Pratt is a surgeon at LCPH who treats children with obesity. 17% of teens suffer from obesity, and 6% of teens suffer from severe obesity (over 300 lbs). It's a debilitating disease, and many children with obesity are stigmatized and some drop out of school before reaching high school. Our school isn't set up for children who suffer from obesity. Janey has visited several rooms at Gunn that don't have appropriate chairs, and the toilets at Gunn can't support their weight. She asked that Gunn to look carefully at the facility and curriculum (e.g. Life Skills class) to address obese students' needs and help reduce the stigma associated with obesity.

Another parent who volunteers at the SAC forwarded a message to Site Council, which Ani presented in Open Forum. The district has planned to cut the two half-time positions at the SAC. The parent is very concerned because many students view the SAC as a wellness center and cutting the adults who work there would be detrimental to those students.

Minutes: The minutes of March meeting were approved by consent.

CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Kathie Laurence

Senior portraits will be available 2-3 days on campus in the fall. (One of the days will be the same day for both school photos and Senior Portraits.)

Anea Bogue was here last week and gave four student presentations and one staff presentation. Some people were very enthusiastic and some less so. She presented a lot of information, but her style was not very interactive. The RISE committee is currently debriefing with her. But now everyone has heard the same information, which is the first step towards ultimately creating our own educational component. Many students gave the feedback that they would like to discuss less obvious scenarios.

Jackson Katz is coming April 11 (and PALY on April 12) for Juniors and Seniors -- before Prom. He'll be back again on April 30 for freshmen and sophomores.

WASC is coming on Sunday March 18 though Tues March 20. On Tuesday March 20 from 3:45-4:15 PM they will report out their findings. On Monday March 19 from 4:00-5:00 PM parents are welcome to attend a **parent**/WASC meeting. The SEC and College Pathways will also have sessions with WASC, and other students are welcome to attend.

Kathie let us know that the Palo Alto Weekly has put in a public records request for her discipline file (in conjunction with the Cozen Report).

The CAASPP Test is coming up Monday-Wednesday before spring break. We are one of the few high-performing schools in the state that has fewer than 95% of students taking the exam. Kathie will be sending out a letter to the community explaining why it's important for Juniors to take the exam. (If they don't take the CAASPP, they won't be eligible to receive a seal of biliteracy, among other reasons. In order to get the seal of biliteracy, you have to receive a certain score on the ELA and also a certain level of proficiency in another language.) Kathie is also looking at other incentives (such as parking permits) to incentivize all juniors to take it. Teachers will be teaching mini courses during four sections of flex time on Wednesday while the juniors are taking the math section of the CAASPP. Students will sign up for the mini courses through Naviance. The California Assembly has proposed replacing that exam with the SAT/ACT, which some school districts have done.

PTSA REPORT – Jen Schultz

These items are on the PTSA agenda for this week:

- 1) PTSA will be voting to help gather signatures to put the **California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018** measure onto the November ballot. This measure will reform Prop 13 and provide up to \$10 billion every year in new funding for schools, health clinics, local services, and infrastructure. The State PTA (CAPTA) has signed on in support.
- 2) Students in Palo Alto and across the US will be walking out next Wed March 14, demanding an end to gun violence. A Special Gunn Connection email went out asking parents to support students and also contact legislators. Details of the march are still being worked out. Kathie supports the students but also wants them to understand they're committing an act of disobedience, and will receive a cut if they miss class.
- 3) The PTSA Exec Board slate will be presented at this week's PTSA meeting. Annual elections will be held at the April 12th meeting (6:30 PM).

PARENT REPORT - Caroline Morales Liu, Jen Schultz, Jane Dick and Ani Gnanalingam

(1) Caroline had an informal meeting with Latino parents. Some of them feel uninformed about many things happening on campus -- from AP classes to clubs. Even though there are parent meetings on campus, some Latino parents feel uncomfortable attending. Some parents felt their kids were placed in a lower math lane due to language skills. Caroline will host some informal coffees for Hispanic parents.

Kathie is happy to support this. We discussed the possibility of translating some of the math placement exams. It's also important to make Dave Deggeller aware of this issue.

(2) One parent asked how parents can best support Gunn teachers and administrators in their jobs. The teachers and staff on Site Council had several responses:

- Have children get enough sleep! Many come to school exhausted. Lack of sleep affects their learning, memory, etc. Have a sleep challenge at home for early bed times and move cell phones to another room.
- Make sure they eat! Pack them a great lunch so they'll have energy.
- Model good online behavior for your children.
- Teach your children how to ask and answer questions clearly and with good manners.
- Model having good intentions and assuming good intentions of others. Most people really do have good intentions!

SEC / STUDENT REPORT– Hanna Suh

1970's Dance was changed to the 2000's dance so more students would attend -- around 200 attended. Model UN went to Washington DC. DECA just came back from a Los Angeles trip. Wind Ensemble went to UCLA for a festival. We had a Spring Sports Rally last Friday. We also had the Anea Bogue presentations, which some kids liked and some didn't. Election packets have gone out to students. Tomorrow is the information session for the candidates. Election season starts in two weeks. We had a Spelling Bee. Elimination is still going on -- around 40 students are still in the game. Around 50 students are participating in a Stock Market game. Gunn now has a boys' volleyball team, but they don't have jerseys yet. Kathie will follow up.

STAFF REPORT – Deanna Messinger

- *Yanan Vrudny* (Chinese) was chosen as one of 5 Outstanding Teachers of 2018 by the California Language Teachers Association and will be honored on Sunday March 11.
- *Tovha Skiles* (Spanish) has been chosen as an AP Spanish Exam Reader by the College Board. She will join Gabriela Garger, who has been a reader for 6 years.
- Art student, **Catherine Linetsky** and **Tian Chen** were selected for the Los Gatos New Museum juried competition, for Santa Clara County high school students. They are 2 out of 100 chosen from 1,400 submissions. The exhibition is from March 29th to May 6th.
- For the first time this year, selected art students will exhibit their drawings/paintings/digital artwork (Drawing and Painting program) at the San Francisco International Airport Museum, in the F12 Gallery, Terminal 3 from April 26th through July 26th.
- Deanna Messinger (Visual Arts) has been nominated for the California Arts Education Association (CAEA) Exemplary Visual Arts Program Award for 2018.
- The Gunn Robotics Team competed at the FIRST Utah Regional 3/1 – 3/3, earning a rank of 10 out of 52 participating teams.
- The SLC (Small Learning Community) presents its first cross-curricular project, "World War Gunn," March 15 in the Staff Lounge.

- The ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) will be held for ELL students March 15 at 8:30am in the library.
- The TRC (Testing Resource Center) has moved from K12 to D2 (next to the Academic Center)
- **Thank you** to Lynn Glover and Laurie Pennington for clearing out the K-building workroom in preparation for the relocation of the Copy Center there.
- The Gunn Choir recorded a performance on the NPR show *From the Top* last Friday at Zellerbach Hall. It was a great day and big thrill for the choir. The episode will air on NPR the week of April 30th.
- King Lear opens next week and will be performed outside. Pray for no rain!

We discussed the process for addressing issues raised by staff at Site Council. The job of the Site Council is not to solve issues but to direct teachers to the person who can.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

We'll put together a Grant Application form this month. Teachers can apply for Site Council grants in April and we'll award grants in May.

The League of Women voters will be in the library tomorrow and Thursday during flex for juniors and seniors who want to register to vote. You don't have to wait until age 18 to vote!

Next Site Council meeting is April 16, 2018 4pm-6pm in Staff Lounge.

April Snacks: Caroline Morales Liu

Adjournment: Kathy moved to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.