

Minutes
Homestead Parent Club Meeting
February 13, 2014

Present: *Judy Felhaber, Treasurer; Saghi Togashi, Cindy Volk, Linette Godfry, Carla Overdahl, Bunny Steyer. Beth Piel, Colleen Gray, Kem Shelford, Amy Ray, Jill Smith, Liz Auger, Julie McAnnich, Beth Zweig, C. Haddex, Stacie Zurawski, Garrielle Alicea, Coleen Bonaheon, Rose Huang, Madeline Uegron. Absent: Kathy O'Shaughnessy, President; Alicia DiGiulio, Vice President; Kim Brown, Secretary.*

The meeting began at 11:01 am.

Welcome by Saghi Togashi. Saghi announced the scheduling conflicts for the absent board members and also upcoming practice SAT/ACT exams offered by the parent club. She thanked attendees for coming and introduced Mr. Ginder.

Principal Park Ginder, School Closings and Delays and Virtual Make Up Days/eLearning

- Mr. Ginder addressed last Wednesday's 2 hour delay vs. school closing. The SACS administration reviews 4 major weather reports, one being the NOAA. The reports were -17 degrees during bus pickup for high school. -20 degrees is not a written policy, only a guideline.
- The attendees mentioned the video posted by Dr. Yager and Dr. Downs and it seemed to be opposite of the explanation given. Also, the video was taken down on last Wednesday, but may be reposted under a different section.
- Last Friday, Mr. Ginder and the SACS administrators met with IN State DOE and were given options for making up the missed days/hours. Options for SACS eLearning days will be proposed for approval to the SACS board members, next Tuesday, 2/18/2014.
- Starting March 3, 2014 teachers have two options: First would be to give linear assignments, which fit within their coursework; second would be to assign an entire section of work. The due dates are to be within a three-week time frame, as to finish the first set of assignments before spring break and then come back and start another set after break. The Teachers are to have information available on My Big Campus, have office hours and online help hours.
- The "STAR" rating will not be negatively affected by the lack of student participation, as of now.
- We are looking to other school districts, such as Noblesville, who already have eLearning days in place. For example, teachers could be required to have assignments posted by 9 am and be available in the afternoon for assistance and q&a.
- As with any new opportunity, it might be slow in learning and have mistakes (a lot of "golden plungers") but we can take care of problems one at a time this year and come out better in coming years. He is planning to be ready for proposed 8 days of virtual/eLearning next year and have a goal of zero snow days in the future.
- Mr. Ginder met with a group of 20 teachers on Monday for input. This group of "first adopters" would coach others teachers in moving forward. Also, they might create multiple menus of options and accept multiple options of completing assignments.
- Students would have input in eLearning curriculum. Homestead has 2270 "idea machines" in our students.
- Approximately 9% of HHS students do not have Internet access at home. Possible remedies include opening school one hour early or staying late or opening school on Saturday mornings.
- Parent concerns voiced include amount of additional schoolwork added to the current 7 periods of assignments, along with a full schedule of extra-curricular activities, the consistent availability of assignments posted and teachers' assistance and knowledge of

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online work. Most parents understand that the time needs to be made up and we all need to support our students.

- Transportation to and from school for students without home Internet connection who would have to complete assignments at Homestead was another issue that was raised after Mr. Ginder left the meeting.

Officer Herriott, Erin's House Peer Support Group

- Officer Herriott, stopped in at noon to gather opinions regarding bringing a FREE Erin's house peer support group for SACS/Homestead students (10-15 currently identified) who are grieving the loss of a parent, sibling, close relative or friend. Part of her job has become mentoring/counseling students whose losses have been affecting behavior in negative ways. She has not had the support of the HHS administration due to the availability of current counselors who are to accomplish this task. Another reason is that we typically "do not bring outside people into HHS" even though several attendees mentioned the FUEL youth group and Military representatives who are outside groups in the school on regular basis. She is placed in a difficult situation and students are in her presence not being able to have support at school or home and she does not feel equipped/trained to handle their situations.
- Parents supported her program and offered to provide transportation home, if after school program was offered. She is going to pursue the Erin's House option further, maybe offering meetings/sessions during lunch (difficult for 4 periods of lunch to have Erin's house staff available and short time frame for each student) or extending advisory, once a month.
- She is also working with an ER doctor from Indianapolis relating to a Drug abuse program that he does voluntarily and FREE of charge. She is not sure if bringing him this year will work out, due to makeup time needed. She would like a longer advisory period to provide him the necessary time to share this very worthwhile presentation. Also suggested was a possible evening session of the program with the community through SACS parent clubs.

Business Meeting, Kathy O'Shaughnessy, president

- No business meeting due to officer absences.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Saghi Togashi and Judy Fehlhaber.