

MINUTES FROM WHS SCHOOL COUNCIL - APPROVED
FEBRUARY 7, 2022

A meeting of the Wayland High School School Council was held remotely at 6:00 p.m. on February 7, 2022.

Present and participating remotely were:

Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)
Win Treese (Community Representative)
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)

Absent were:

Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)
Zachary Mittelsteadt (Student Representative)

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation.

1. Allyson Mizoguchi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)		X
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Zachary Mittelsteadt (Student Representative)		X
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)		X
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

2. Public comment

- Jeff Sklar: In favor of community input when it comes to the topic of Weighted GPA policy and expressed concerns once again that the process to abolish reporting of WGPA in 2018 was not inclusive. Suggests having a survey.
- Marybeth Sacramone (WHS Counseling Department Head): Reiterated WPS values of equity and inclusion as they relate to the current Weighted GPA policy. Also noted the importance of “right-fit” courses and focus on SEL. Over 100 colleges & universities have told us that WGPA is meaningless. Weighting honors grades is a system of privilege and is counter to our anti-racist policies & practices.
- Sharon Burke: Described personal background story and acknowledged own privilege. Concerned about colleges moving to “test optional” along with no WGPA at WHS. Believes students can differentiate themselves through WGPA. Acknowledges priority on equity but worried that no WGPA creates stress. Concerned about communication to parents when policies/practices change (e.g. no midterms).
- Stephanie Brandaleone: When it comes to honors programs, scholarships, etc., we need to address the financial harm that we are doing by the tens of thousands of dollars that her daughter would not have received if her weighted GPA was not on her transcript.

3. Approval of minutes: 12/20/21 and 1/25/22

Motion to approve: Lilly Watkins

Second: Mike Hopps

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

4. Review recent public forum on Weighted GPA

- In light of recent forum, Allyson reminded the Council that the group doesn't approve policy, but rather makes recommendations to the principal.

- Discussion of process in 2018 and clarification of involvement of community and parents, which was summarized in presentation.
 - Allyson addressed earlier contention that a student had their WGPA put on their transcript. Clarified that the WGPA can still be calculated and provided, but an exception was not made to put it on any student's transcript.
 - Jill Swenson questioned whether School Council needed to discuss the topic more and reminded group of school/district focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - Mike Hopps noted his multi-faceted role in the community as parent, teacher, community member and expressed (as parent) trust in school to make sound decisions. Noted that Drew Carter's point on WGPA being meaningless and Caroline Han's points about WGPA being a racist policy.
 - Karen Brown noted her concern for the mental health of our students (as psychiatrist) and wondered if eradication of WGPA has met the goals of decreasing stress. Recommended formal collection of evidence as to whether the WGPA change had desired results.
 - Discussion among Council members about nature of data gathering or survey that would be helpful.
 - Discussion of how Allyson could address outstanding community concerns related to this issue and helping community understand the issue better.
 - Discussion of a possible motion to recommend the development and administration of a survey. Discussion of possible bias, the goals of the survey, where the information gathered by survey would go.
 - Win Treese clarified motion and reminded group that the School Council doesn't have policy making and decision making ability. Would be making a recommendation to the principal that does not bind the School Council to take action because the Council does not have the authority to do that.
 - Initial motion by Robin that the School Council recommend to the principal that a survey is conducted of defined constituents to gather input on the weighted GPA decision made in 2018.
 - Lily Watkins suggested that rather than do a survey, provide information through the school website a place for the parents who are concerned to send their concerns. Noted that the students who are in the school now were not in HS at the time of the original decision.
 - Erin Gibbons sought clarity on motion and urged group to vote on initial motion.
 - Group discussed a different possible motion to recommend to Allyson that the community receive more clarity and information about the WGPA issue.
 - Discussion about the difficulty of correlating current mental health status of our students with the absence of WGPA.
5. Motion that School Council recommends to the principal to draw up a survey or information gathering tool to determine impact/next steps in relation to WGPA issue.
Motion to approve: Karen Brown
Second: Robin Sklar

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)		X
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)		X
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)		X
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)		X
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)		X
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)		X

Motion does not pass.

6. Motion that School Council recommends to the principal to inform public about the rationale and process behind the elimination of weighted GPA and to provide clear pathway to ask questions, express concerns, and get more information.

Motion to approve: Erin Gibbons

Second: Lily Watkins

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

Motion passes.

7. Overview of FY23 budget

- Allyson summarized HS budget requests for FY23 as outlined in the [Superintendent's Recommended Budget](#).

8. Discussion of WHS course selection process

- Allyson described the work that the School Council did last year to surface barriers embedded in our course selection process, primarily for Black and Brown students. Recommendations from this year's Council will not be implemented until next year, but there may be barriers to address as we gear up for March recommendations.

- Mike described his process as math/computer science teacher in recommending students for next year's courses, including a one-on-one conversation with each student and factors such as performance, effort.
- Jill described the importance of seeing the "whole student" and talking about balance of schedule. Putting supports in place to help the student be successful in the level that they are already in.
- Allyson described general timeline and process, and reiterated key question of bias in the process.
- Allyson described highlights of listening sessions in June.
 - Question of timing with recommendations happening in March, and students feeling like they are just hitting their stride. Possibility of codifying a shift in recommendation at the end of the year.
 - Students were generally aware of selection/recommendation process and the override process.
 - Most students feel like they were placed pretty well. They also talked a little bit about parental pressure to take courses, teacher clearly is first influence.
 - Also students saying that they really wanted to discover their own strengths and that they showed self awareness around the desire for balance. Generally felt like they were placed well.
 - Students of color voiced the importance of seeing "students who look like me" and feeling represented in the curriculum.
 - Most important factors: who is taking the course, what other students say about the course, the level of difficulty, and their level of interest
 - Less important: what are colleges looking for, main mode of assessing and learning, who is teaching the course, what teachers and counselors say
- Allyson posed the quandary of increasing the number of Black and Brown students in honors-level courses when there is little representation now.
- Win described comments during listening sessions about family pressure playing a significant role in the general taking of honors courses. So even a small cultural difference of how hard parents push will skew the statistics on who takes the courses. Also noted that what the HS can do about this might be relatively limited because it depends on what happens before the HS.
- Allyson expressed desire for the group to discuss issue at next meeting and have some specific outcomes for this issue with some tweaks that don't disrupt the master scheduling process.
- Mike described the racial/gender gap he has seen in Computer Science. Speaking directly to students about their interest helps.
- Robin noted that some changes to "elevate" students may need to come at the MS as it is harder to make the jump at the HS.
- Allyson stated that she would provide a summary sheet of takeaways from the listening sessions from last spring and a breakdown of racial composition of Honors/AP classes at WHS at next meeting.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Jill Swenson

Second: Mike Hopps

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Swenson (staff representative)

Allyson Mizoguchi (Principal/co-chair)