

MINUTES FROM WHS SCHOOL COUNCIL - APPROVED
MARCH 7, 2022

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

Present and participating remotely were:

Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative) - *arr. 6:28 p.m.*
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)
Win Treese (Community Representative)
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)

Absent were:

Karen Brown (Parent 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

- No public comments

3. Approval of minutes: 2/7/22
Motion to approve: Lilly Watkins
Second: Mike Hopps

| ROLL CALL | YES | NO |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal) | 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 | |
| Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative) | X | |

4. Discussion of WHS course selection process in light of School Improvement Plan Strategic Action, "Review current processes of course selection and placement. Evaluate for clarity and bias."

- Allyson provided overview of current process and policy related to course selection and asked group to recommend areas for change.
- Continue discussion of highlights from listening sessions with students in June 2021
 - Timeline issues: wishing course recommendations could happen later in the school year
 - Awareness of the override policy, but didn't feel interested in engaging or feeling like they had agency (like it would make a difference)
 - Lack of flexibility in the process
 - Parental pressure: can we temper ideas of what a healthy course balance is
 - Felt good about where they were but felt like they weren't necessarily motivated/encouraged to move past that
 - Students wanting to explore things, find their own strengths but knowing that they have limited time
 - Most important factors in deciding-friends, word on the street, interest
 - Less important-college requirements, how/who course taught, what adults in their lives say

- Allyson shared data related to 2017-2021 course enrollment that is broken down by race showing that Black/Brown students are disproportionately underrepresented in Honors/AP level courses.
 - Discussion about scope of the issue when the sample size is relatively small.
 - Acknowledgement that the achievement gap is a quandary that the WPS has been grappling with for years.
 - Possible skewing of numbers by students taking more than one AP course.

- Discussion of transition from MS to HS and whether families have enough information about levels at the HS and when levels begin.

- Some review of major themes from student listening sessions in late spring '22, where students said a major factor in course selection is their peers and “word on the street” about courses. Also, students being self-motivated to take Honors/AP level courses, less about parental pressure.

- Brief discussion of ties between Honors/AP levels and mental health of students. Is school messaging about courses consistent with our care and concern about mental health?

- Discussion of override process.
 - Relatively small number each year. Does this indicate that students are well-placed, or families don't know how to engage in the process (or are not empowered to engage)?
 - Questions as to timeline: currently, students who go through the override process are put on waitlist, then placed in course if there is room. Should process occur before electives are requested and the master schedule is built?
 - When should/do teachers begin to encourage students to take an upper-level course (put a “bug in their ear”)? Can this happen sooner? Should it involve parents? How can everyone “come together sooner” in the process?
 - Discussion of support available once a student moves up a level. How are we helping students succeed at the higher level?
 - Discussion of teachers using 1-2-3 process for teachers to indicate their level of confidence in recommending a particular course; return to this as a way of communicating to the family?
 - How to build in ample time for families to explore all levels and consult with teacher?

- Allyson posed the idea of turning selection entirely to families and removing prerequisites; teacher makes recommendation but family ultimately decides. Some districts don't allow student to move within the first quarter.
 - Would be hard to make students in higher level courses stay if they are struggling
 - Calibration of expectations would take some time

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Jill Swenson

Second: Mike Hopps

| ROLL CALL | YES | NO |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal) | 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 | |
| Mike Hopps (Staff Representative) | X | |
| Jill Swenson (Staff Representative) | X | |
| Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative) | X | |

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Swenson (staff representative)

Allyson Mizoguchi (Principal/co-chair)