

TMHS Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

3:30-4:30 pm

Meeting called to order. CO-chairs, Annie Carlson and Kathleen Merritt introduced

Introductions made

Attendees in person: Deanna Koelliker, Kathleen Merritt, Stephanie Hatcher, Monica Warren, Suzanne Hazen, Sara Kimble, Len Metheny, Kristin Metheny, Maureen Waters

Student Reps: Savannah Baize, Katie Pumayali

Teacher Rep: Heather Rosen

Zoom Attendees: Phillip Teas, Jill Odell, Lisa & Dave Fischetti

Student Report

Homecoming court will be discussed next week to try and make it less of a popularity contest

Students are happy to be here and new students feel welcomed

They are working on being more welcoming to middle school students

Students really want to be able to use air pods during tutorial. They believe it is beneficial to wear them as it allows students to focus when the background noise is distracting. Currently air pods are not allowed in class.

Middle School Report by Dori

Middle school is off to a good start. The second annual MS yearbook will be produced this year.

One goal this year is more cohesive leadership between MS and HS

A pep rally is in the works for MS at the end of the month

Accountability Committee Meetings Goals and Standards were reviewed by Kathleen

Principal Report

Sara presented a power point

TMHS Goals: increasing student engagement

Student numbers-enrollment is up with a net gain of 8 or 9. Students have been put on a waitlist for certain classes

Student Expectations-there has been a lot of discussion about phones in class. Teachers have said not allowing phones in class has really increased the level of student engagement.

The no strict phone policy in class is very helpful as phones are distracting. Students are advocating for air pods allowed in tutorial only. Sara said student reps would need to make a presentation to teachers as to why they are beneficial. Teachers might be more willing to allow wired headphones during tutorial.

Vape detectors will be installed in some bathrooms. Vape detector will be placed in gender neutral bathroom. If it works, they will be installed in other bathrooms.

Substance Use

5 incidents in first week of school

Some students have a major addiction to nicotine

Discarded alcohol containers have been found in school bathrooms, in water bottles, etc.

Tri County Health study shows high use of alcohol, marijuana and vape. We need to develop a subcommittee on substance abuse.

Based on Tri County health survey, this is the highest use of substance abuse that we have seen in 6 years.

There is a lack of parent involvement that ripples down. When young kids see older kids partaking in substances, the younger kids are influenced. There needs to be more parent involvement to crack down on this substance issue.

Instead of suspension, can there be Saturday detentions or educational classes that must be taken. Many kids don't mind missing school so the suspension is not really viewed as a punishment.

Can there be a parent component? Before the kid comes back to school, the parent and the child needs to take a class.

Deanna Koelliker Based on the data from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, kids are engaging with illegal substances at a very young age like 11 and 12 years old. The majority of kids fall into this category of experimenting and using at a young age. There is another group, maybe smaller, that has a big problem and addiction and are partaking during the day at school. Easy access to drugs and alcohol in this town is a problem.

Repercussion for being under the influence or in possession of:

Nicotine-suspended for day, not in trouble with the law

Alcohol, marijuana and other substance-suspended for 3 days and have to go to court

Sale of controlled substance and weapons-automatically expelled based on CO law

Expelling kids might not be the best route to go. Getting them involved in a juvenile diversion program with an education piece that addresses why they are abusing substances might be a more progressive approach.

Possibly introduce a brain health study and how substance abuse affects the brain in youth

Get the results of the health survey out and schedule some educational pieces for kids and parents.

We will tap into CTC (Communities that Care) and Tri County Health to present at a future meeting.

Homecoming

How do we make it more inclusive and representative of those who demonstrate the miner way. Maybe it's an application process?

Currently it is just a vote among students that is more of a popularity contest

Should we poll students and ask them about how they want the homecoming court process restructured?

Dress Code-crop tops are an issue as that is the main fashion for girls

Revised attendance code: absences are excused or unexcused to try and curb the extended vacations

School started with a pep rally which started school on a positive note

Heather Rosen Teacher Report

Good start to school. There was a great teacher bonding day at the beginning of school that set a positive tone.