

HIGH SCHOOL SHARED DECISION MAKING TEAM
MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2010

Present: Lisa Belinsky – Parent
Carol Egan – Parent
Jennifer Landman – MEA
Dana Greebel – counselor intern
Ken Massetti – MEA
Mark Van Schenkhof – MEA
Nicole Kopetic – MESPA
Donna Linden MESPA
Patrick O'Reilly – MASA
Amit Vora – Student
Demitri Dedousis – Student
Mark Sippin – Assistant Principal
Dr. Dean Schlanger – Principal

Absent: Elizabeth Johnson – Parent

Guests: Chris Keen – Teacher
Steve Leondis – Hoops on the Hill, Founder
Tyler Rice – Hoops on the Hill, Secretary
Kim Cirque- Teacher

Facilitator: Patrick O'Reilly

Minutes: Donna Linden, Lisa Carlin

Chris Keen, teacher, came in to talk on behalf of Mark Sippin regarding Battle of the Classes. The students are not “rah-rah” about the idea. They feel that they are involved in sports, clubs, classes and it is not their #1 idea. They also said that they would want it during school hours not after school. Students also felt that there was an ulterior motive and that it was being forced on them. It was suggested to try and tie it into a Pep Rally type of idea during Spring Sports season.

Beyond Hoops on the Hill – Steve Leondis, Tyler Rice

Hoops on the Hill is constantly involving ideas as it goes into its 4th year. It was started 3 ½ years ago when Diana Holden approached Steve Leondis about a renovated gym not being utilized and being that he had some basketball skills, he started training with some of the kids from Adventures in Learning. It started on a Tuesday with basketball teaching K-4 and then 5th – high school. There was a handful at first and then it became more popular. Most of the kids are from Spinney Hill. Steve Leondis is known as “Coach Leo” and feels that it needs to be spiritual as well as athletic and academic. A big part of growth is outside of the gym. A part of the local youth group are with issues with the families and the trust that is developed from this group.

As the needs grew, Hoops on the Hill was organized and put together with a Board of Directors, a non-profit 501C that met twice a year.

Steve Leondis feels that spiritual growth for at risk students gives them a higher chance of success. It is not a Christian thing, “it is an everybody thing” to live better lives. Trying to get kids to live outside of their box. Very inclusive to take scripture and apply it to everyday life. Encourage positive friendships.

He is seeing positive growth. Steve Leondis suggested mandatory study skills for the students on the Hill. Right now there are 12-13 students for academic classes on Thursday's. There is an Academic Coordinator to take inventory and work with the tutors for the students. Starting next week there will be a Meal Program with food being donated by a local restaurant. Hopefully this will help to get more students up to Hoops on the Hill. Building new relationships and trust will get academics up.

Steve Leondis would like a "personal concierge". A bulk of the kids do not have home support, so he would like for the kids to have to check in with someone at school everyday. Can teachers allow "extra credit" by going to Hoops on the Hill on Thursday nights? To help them raise their grades kids need accountability. There are 4 tutors on Thursday nights. Steve asked if textbooks can be made available for the students on the Hill. Let kids know their life off the Hill and their possibilities.

At Manhasset High School there is already 1 on 1 tutoring, the Bridge Program and through SEPTA Middle School Mid-term Prep.

How do we pull all together with Beyond the Hill and beyond Manhasset to get to a bigger place. Kids will not show if they do not trust you. The whole culture is trust. Some parents/guardians do have communication with their children and some do not. Steve would like to raise funds to implement things like a real "mentor". School can be a real asset to Hoops on the Hill, "it is about the kids". Concerns are what happens after they leave Manhasset High School? The hope is to use Manhasset High School in a meaningful way.

Community Service Discussion

Kim Cerqua, Community Service Coordinator reviewed the history of the program and how it had been revamped five years ago. During this time, she evaluated other school programs and began to bring awareness to students via a new website: (<http://www.manhasset.k12.ny.us/webpages/commservicehs/>) She explained that the Manhasset students are phenomenal volunteers and there is much "giving back" within our school community.

From her assortment of volunteer opportunities, she can mesh these opportunities with the talent and interests of the individual student. She also discussed the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award ranges from 100 to 250+ hours within one calendar year. This award is usually participated in at the college level and it is exciting to bring it to our high school students.

She is recommending that the current 85 hour Service and Citizenship Award be changed (for incoming freshman) to be awarded the end of junior year. It could then be used for college applications and not after the fact. The mandatory 15 hour community service requirement would remain for the senior year.

Discussion topics for February:

1. Hoops on the Hill: What can the school do for them; think about ideas and programs that could be implemented.
2. Community Service discussion recap.

Next meeting scheduled for February 10, 2010 at 11:22 in room 310.