

CAC Meeting 9/1/09

CAC members in attendance: Carolyn Merritt, William Reed, Tyler Gill, Steve Kane, Ray Grasshoff, Martha Anne Kuntz, Doug Jansen, Margaret McQuiston (English dept. rep for today only), Rose Ruffino, Amanda Campbell, Mary LaVeau, Margery Warren, Susan Leos, Carrie Turlington, Steve Wand, Aaron Garcia, Adrian Gonzalez, Cyndi Hoffman, Patricia A. Geer, Stephanie McGraw, Andrea Ramirez, Wendy Campbell (rep from Dr. Nolly's office), Bill Sheftall, and Cyndi Harrison

Carolyn Merritt called the meeting to order at 7:34 AM.

Introductions made.

Carrie Turlington made a motion to nominate Bill Reed as Co-Chair to serve with previously named Chair, Carolyn Merritt. Mr. Kane seconded the motion and Mr. Reed was elected as Staff Co-Chair.

CAC is looking for someone to fill the secretary position. No one volunteered, so we will rotate the duty for now.

Motion to approve minutes from May meeting made by Margery Warren, seconded by Stephanie McGraw. Minutes approved.

Co-Chair, Carolyn Merritt made comments on football concession stand from last week. Ms. Merritt complimented the very polite students at Bowie! Due to a new concessions contract the Senior class can no longer sell drinks in the stands at home games. But, 10% of what the students sell in stands to crowds on both sides of stadium can be used as fundraiser. Some controversy, but aforementioned was from talking to Bill Smalley. The Class of 2010 earned \$700 from concessions during the first home game..

Principal's Report

Year starting well, classes full and balancing them, or adding additional class sections in high needs areas. We are checking to see if we need more sections and student schedule changes, aiming for 30-32 per class. 2844 students enrolled (70 students more than district projections) in classes.

Renovations/Additions - Cabinets are being put into renovated science rooms, expect cabinets to be delivered by end September, weekend move to new classrooms for classes affected. Work starting on 4 new science labs, computer lab, restrooms (and handicapped ones on first floor) in E Wing. This project is due to be finished by start of school next year.

Coach Pool left to become Assistant Athletic Director downtown and they are looking at resumes for a replacement; interviews to come soon.

Cafeteria columns painted well, and thanks to PTSA and Margery Warren for that. It looks great!

Mr. Kane says that Mrs. Leos, new Instructional Administrator, is making us better already.

Introduction of Mrs. Leos – she taught English 22 yrs, and then became an administrator. She has been in Leander last 10 years, excited and feeling very welcomed by staff, faculty, and parents.

The Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) is in the process of being built now. District created new templates and better guidelines that are more user-friendly for staff members. The members of CIP team will be using student data and test scores to write specific academic goals and objectives for our campus. More information on the CIP will follow at a later meeting.

Counselor's report (Ms. Bell)

Next week in senior English classes, the students will go to the library computer lab to talk about credit checks, transitioning from high school to rest of life. She asked that senior parents discuss and mention college and career center availability and connections with their children.

On Tuesday, Sept. 15 there will be a Senior Parent Meeting in the Bowie cafeteria at 6:30 pm - St Edwards, Texas State, and possibly Texas A&M will be here to talk to parents and students and review application procedures and paperwork. After seniors, counselors will go down to juniors and have similar discussions.

Advisory Council Update (Ms. McGraw & Ms. Ramirez)

9th graders have one of their own core teachers as advisors this year. Great attitude change with kids, new binder specific to kids and what that group needs. More detailed to that group of kids needs. The binders with advisory activities are redesigned and more helpful for all grade levels, 9 – 12.

Sept 11th – Co chair retreat for teachers who supervise advisory classes and content. There were questions addressed about who oversees these classes in case of advisory classes being let out early or not doing anything. Administrators and staff members noted that the Advisory Co-Chairs would be working on this as well as administrators.

Sept 24th Club day for students to check out clubs and talk to sponsors.

During the “Dawg Days” designed for students to pick up books, get IDs, etc. over 2300 kids participated (about 80% of students). Though we are looking for ways to increase that number, Bowie staff was very pleased. Mr. Clarey did a great job, and also 65 parent volunteers helped – thanks to everyone.

Mrs. Ramirez discussed Launch (not acronym) – which is a redesign of 9th grade teams. This is an endeavor to support freshmen as they transition into high school. Launch includes having 44 freshman advisors, 16-17 students per advisory class. Each 9th grader has an advisor who is also one of his own teachers during the day. Lots of attention and curriculum (top 10 skills) being introduced and reinforced in classes and advisory this 6-weeks. i.e.: planners in class and follow-up in advisory. The students will study their own learning styles next week.

The first Friday of the school week we had Freshman Friday – 800 freshmen to courtyard and passed out cookies after first week to make them feel special. Students were polite, well mannered. Launch advisors are thinking about having something special during an Advisory freshman Thursday for those who pass all of their classes to reward them.

Mr. Kane added that for 9th grade staff picked top 10 skills to be successful that students are not directly taught. Now they are being directly prepared and reinforced through classes. Teaching how to learn and be organized. Tailored towards teachers and how it applies to their class.

Questions were asked about supporting sophomores in advisory as well– JBHS staff members noted that we are aiming at high risk students, redesigning the Dawg Den for credit recovery, teaching TAKS skills, etc. It was also noted that there are peer leaders this year for advisory and that advisory teachers are to be using the Gradespeed system to help their advisees stay caught up in their classes. There was some discussion about 9th grade plan being offered to higher grades. Mrs. Leos pointed out there are lots of ideas already in binders for upper grades and that we would have additional tutoring this year in cafeteria before and after school for any level of student.

Mr. Kane emphasized that we are restructuring belief that it is the entire JBHS campus that is responsible for students who are not succeeding in classes. As noted, we will have before and after school tutoring school-wide, in addition to teacher tutoring. There will be at least 3 levels of tutoring for those not learning. If students continue to struggle, more intense tutoring will be held for them to prevent them from falling through the cracks. Mr. Kane also mentioned that measures were being taken to ensure that the students were learning the most important concepts in every course at every level. The system for tutoring is to be voluntary at first and then assigned if the student continues to struggle. Instructional Coach Cindi Carroll designed a computer program to tell how each student did on TAKS objectives for all classes to identify individual strengths and weaknesses. Teachers for tutoring have access to this information and can tailor reteaches to these weaknesses.

PTSA Report

Membership drive going on right now– encourage everyone to join the JBHS PTSA!

PTSA and the Booster Club has planned the Bulldogs and Hotdogs event for Saturday, Sept 12th 6-9pm. Lots of fun activities for students and younger children will be available. There will even be video games in a semi truck brought to us by local military recruiters, jousting, etc. Anyone who wants to help finalize these plans needs to come to the Sept 8th meeting at 6:30 pm in the choir room.

The mural painting is moving forward with Susie Klein, hope to have more information for next meeting, scaffolding was an issue last year, but appears to have been resolved.. 3 Saturdays needed to hopefully finish by Winter Break. “Bowie Through the Seasons” is the theme. Art students will be painting murals. Discussion about trying to post sketches on the website. They will be seeking donations of paint, materials, gift cards for supplies, etc.

DAC – No report. But Carolyn Merritt noted that she and Mary LaVeau are currently participating “Upclose” project which gives an overview of district operations and structure – if there are Bowie issues to raise, please communicate them. i.e: Maintenance requests that linger.

Old Business – Field of Dreams latest update from Dean Goodright was in May. They are working with district and city for best way to transfer property. Update in October.

New Business

Questions were raised about Dress Code – What is the enforcement? Specifically with shorts/skirts distracting in class while cheerleaders' skirts are very short and have slits. Mr. Kane noted that uniforms are exempt from the policy. Questions were raised about boys' athletic shorts vs girls with athletic shorts. It was noted that it's the length of the girls' shorts that are the major concern because they are distracting. It was also noted that if the athletic shorts have pockets, they are not considered to be true athletic shorts. Ms. McGraw noted that consistency meetings between administrators had been held and that now multiple dress code violations would be handled the way that multiple tardy violations are handled. 3 violations will mean the student receives one detention, for either tardies or dress code violations.

Announcements

Back to School night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 02, 2009. During the lunch period for freshmen that evening, parents should go to library to hear about new 9th grade program, Launch.

CAC group decided to change the original January 5 meeting date to January 12th, 2010, to avoid meeting on first day back to class after Winter Break.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM.