

Eugene IHS Site Council Meeting Minutes
8 October 2013

Present: Peggy Farris, Rebecca Hammons, Lloyd Madden, Hannah Eshelman, Selena Blick, Brad Schoellhorn, Jocelyn Harley, Donn Osterlund, Carey Killen, Amy Duncan, Deon Saraceno, Wade Powell, Lisa Albrich, Steve Smith

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. **The Minutes** of the 17 September meeting were approved by voice vote.

3. Reports -

Parents:

The Welcome to Eugene IHS Parent meeting was held on 23 September and it was well attended, particularly by the parents of incoming 9th graders. There seems to be some confusion on the part of 9th grade parents about how the parent group works. Lloyd suggested a possible idea to set up a mentorship cadre of parents whose students have been at IHS for several years to help guide the new parents. The parent sponsored International fair will be held on 24 October in the Churchill Cafeteria. There will also be another parent meeting in November.

Staff:

The faculty are progressing through the Open House circuit and making some progress on being trained on Synergy. The faculty is now starting their contributions to Talent Ed in the growth and development system. All of the new technology has presented challenges for faculty and they are trying to get up to speed.

The Opening Assembly held on 4 October was a success with Wade and Deon observing that the speaker, Bruce Allen, was very well received by the students. The relevance and timeliness of Mr. Allen's experience was very impressive to the students. Deon shared that the first Habitat for Humanity chapter has been started at South Eugene and the group is attempting to spread the organization to the other IHS campuses.

At this point a discussion ensued about how to inject some of this relevancy on a more consistent basis to the student's learning process. Lloyd explained that an advisory committee for Lane ESD is trying to work with local organizations to match up students with mentors so that they can develop certain skill sets for which there are currently shortages in Lane region. What might be the potential for IHS to pilot or participate in this sort of program? Jocelyn agreed that students are looking for more tangible "real world" experiences beyond school to expose them to new

environments. A question about a possible conflict of for profit organizations with the mission of IHS was raised. Generally speaking the faculty was wary of taking on another program/project given all of the changes they are undergoing this year.

Lloyd agreed with the general mood in the room. As a parent he wants to take some of those challenges off the plate of the faculty...volunteering to train teacher on Synergy. His question is; how can we access the energy of the parent community to help the school transition to this new learning environment?

Students:

Brad (CHS) observed that the new 3 x 5 schedule is becoming more manageable. Selena (CHS) reported that the IHS Student Government Retreat was held and while there was no overnight stay, it was an informative event with plenty of guest speakers. T-shirt sales end on Thursday, 10 October. Wade and student leaders will be meeting with an outfit that is working to enhance the SG's Facebook presence. There will also be a meeting with Oakway Center in the next few weeks to plan the Eugene IHS Celebration on 31 May 2014.

4. EEF Grants –

IHS will be putting forth two proposals with a possible third request. The criteria for selection was shared by Steve and an explanation of past practice was presented. The Eurasian Conference, which is for grade 10, has historically been funded by an EEF grant and this year's proposal requests \$2400 for the event at Wheeler Pavilion on 4 April 2014. Wade Powell put a second proposal, for the International High School Celebration Jazz Band, forth. The funding request is for \$950. There was a question posed about why musical scores would be bought, but it was explained that this would make it easier for students to get copies of their role and ensure that it stays with the band. There is the possibility of a third request for a grant being submitted to fund busses for about 50 students to attend the "Teach Africa Conference" in Portland in December that will be put on by the World Affairs Council of Oregon.

There was some discussion about the merits of each proposal. Some of the exchanges noted that the timing of when the proposals had to be submitted necessitated planning the previous year, which can present other challenges. The group decided that the priority ranking would be:

1. Eurasian Conference
2. International High School Jazz Band
3. Teach Africa Conference (when submitted)

5. Leadership Transition -

Steve announced that there would be two open positions in the IHS leadership team for the 2014 – 15 school year. Marilyn Curtis will be retiring leaving an opening for an I.B. Coordinator and Steve will be teaching abroad which will vacate the Head Teacher position. A committee will be composed in the next little while with a goal of making selections for these positions to be complete by January or February 2014.

6. Site Council 2013 -14

Steve opened a discussion of what the functions, role, goals of the site council should be for this year. This discussion was wide ranging. The faculty members who spoke believed that retaining the school's unique position as a teacher run program is paramount. The role of the site council in supporting the school's autonomy, equity and rigorous approach to education is crucial. Faculty and student participants echoed the appreciation of the site council being a place where discussions are had rather than "a talking to". The site council as a vehicle for input in the leadership selection processes is helpful. The observation was made that the site council could be a place for the evaluation of programs so as to evolve into a school that incorporates some of the fundamental changes that technology has brought to education. Clearly defined goals can make evaluation irrelevant. It was posited that due to the school's size and structure that it is uniquely positioned to make some of these transitions. Parents would like to take some of the burden off of teachers and allow them to rotate into the role of mentors/coaches or agents rather than just focused on content. The discussion ended with the request that site members reflect upon the role they envision the council playing for the next meeting on 12 November 2013.

7. Agenda items for November -

None noted at this time.

Next meeting is Tuesday, 12 November in Room 538 at South Eugene HS at 4.15.

Convener: Lloyd Madden

Recorder: Jocelyn Harley

Respectfully submitted,

Donald C. Osterlund