

## School Council Minutes

Oct. 6, 2009

Attendees: Joel Stembridge, David Deutsch, Jane Starkman, Robert Parlin, Tom Lee, Barry Wanger, Sue Kirshenbaum, Marci Sapers, Liz Richardson, Charlie Myette, Lisa Rucinskis, Monica Hochberg, Chip DiMarco, Deena David, Mary Scott.

On behalf of the Data Team, a group composed of teachers and administrators, Josepha Blocker delivered a presentation that described some of the issues and questions the Team has been studying as well as future plans.

Most of the data and discussion involved Curriculum II placement. There was a breakdown by ethnicity, i.e. a higher percentage of Latino and African-American students take Curriculum II (slower paced) classes than Asian-American or Caucasian students.

Among the issues examined: Is the school providing different education based on racial factors; how difficult is it to transfer out of Curriculum II classes, is Curriculum II doing a good job of meeting the needs of students, are we proud of Curriculum II, do Curriculum II students feel like second class citizens, and the challenges of teaching Curriculum II classes effectively.

Principal Stembridge said "Until we have a great school for all kids we don't have a great school."

Stembridge also talked about his vision for the role of School Council. He said he wants it to be a body that reviews key issues for the school and makes recommendations to him regarding those issues. He also said the Council needs a greater balance between faculty and parents and will review the most effective way to select student members. Faculty and parents are elected.

He pointed out that School Council is the one body that represents all the constituencies of the school – students, teachers, parents, administrators and staff.

He presented a tentative flow chart that illustrates how school improvement proposals could be encouraged and approved. The proposed plan calls for The Committee on Programs, the policy hub/incubator for the school, to review recommendations from the Faculty Council, Student Senate, and Department. Chairs, Housemasters and Assistant Principals and send them to the Principal for a decision.

Recommendations from parents and guardians will go to the School Council which will review and make recommendations to the Principal, as well. The Principal can request that the School Council review and offer an opinion on any of the recommendations he receives, excluding contractual or personnel issues. The Council's recommendations to the principal are not binding.

The next meeting will be at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 3

Respectfully submitted,  
Barry Wanger

