

Summit High School PTO Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2016

Attendees: Alex Queripel, Nick Cohron, Ines Cohron, Julie Kimmel, Stacey Supran, Torie Bligh, Kelly Deere, Lee Shovel, Ann Roue, Susie Hoecker, Gloria Ron-Fornes, Susan Sidebottom, Claire Ryday, Tracey Keegan, Mary Beth Driscoll, Betsy MacPherson, Melissa Phillips, Sarah Laurin, Lucy Fleischman, Leah Griffith, Lisa Dadourian, Kathryn Colao, Teresa Usme, Laura Coburn, Colleen Manion, Sherel Hersch, Maggie Baum, Mitchell Hecker, Karen Fallows, Chrissy Reinhardt, Jennie Pommier, Sue Baier, Erica Sirabian, Alison Chieffo

Call to order: 9:05 am

Approval of PTO meeting minutes 12/10/15

Mr. Sears introduced new principal, Stacy Grimaldi, who will become the 6th principal of Summit High School since its founding in 1918.

Principal's update

9th grade parent night, January 20

Mary Poppins production in full swing, performances: March 2 - 6

AP/Honors applications sent out via Google 1/15, due 1/29

Single session 1/29

Semi-formal 1/29

Mid-terms 2/1-4; end of marking period 1/5

Big Band dance 2/5

Department Head presentations

English/Corey Walsh

- New elective for 2016: Speech and Debate 2.5 credits
- AP/Honors acceptance criteria unchanged from last year
- If student applies for AP or Honors, then changes mind, talk to counselor
- Notifications of acceptance out by mail to parents by end of February
- Can appeal negative decision via letter to Vice Principal; final decision made after third marking period

Social Studies/Jim Woods

- New electives for 2016: Holocaust and Genocide Studies, 2.5 credits (jrs and srs only)
- AP Macroeconomics – offered in Fall, 2.5 credits (jrs and srs only)

World Language

- French 5 and Spanish 5 Honors offered
- Honors Spanish Literature and AP Spanish Literature

Comments by Mr. Woods:

Goal of Summit High School is to provide the best education to our students.

- College prep courses are challenging and will prepare students for college level study.
- Honors and AP level classes, while the topics are the same, offer a higher degree of sophistication, are more complex and require students to complete a heavier workload. Students who apply and elect to take these classes must have the skill set and interest level to meet the higher expectations of achievement.
- Parents and students need to determine a course schedule that meets each student's individual needs and works to their best advantage.

Mathematics/Don Tobey

New courses: AP Computer Science Principles and Integrated Algebra (for students who needs reinforcement in Algebra)

- In choosing math courses, student needs to have flexibility to move among math topics, interest and skill level to meet the needs of the course.
- Math study is a linear progression – topics must be mastered at each level to ensure proper preparation for future classes.
- Be sure to review how math course selection works with whole schedule.

Science/Tom O'Dowd

Department is seeking to improve the depth of its science offerings; thus,

new courses for 2016: AP Psychology, Exercise Science, Anatomy and Physiology, Forensic Science (2 semesters on alternating years) and Introduction to Animal Science (replacing Zoology)

- To ensure success in science study, be sure schedule is appropriate for student; protect against too high a stress level
- Asks that parents and student look at the big picture when choosing courses, assess student's progress to date, skill set and interest level
- Goal is NOT to keep student out of any particular class; define success in its broadest scope; perhaps have more of a career emphasis

Parent question: Why push toward AP?

Mr. Walsh stressed that if ability is there, take APs; tell student's story with transcript.

PTO Business

Parent social 2/5 Elks

Parking situation wrap-up, Susan Sidebottom

- Committee's work done
- City Council made no changes to street ordinances
- Next steps: attend February City Council meeting and ask to remove or adjust parking ordinances
- Mr. Sears thanked committee for their many hours of work

Meeting adjourned 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Merritt

February 2, 2016