

9/10 TJ Parent Partner's Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Lisa Allen (TJP President), Susie Sundeen (TJP VP), Janet Willson (Treasurer), Kelly Scarborough (Secretary), Robyn Kuhlman (At large), Evelyn Steele, Candace Andrews, Stephanie Stoetzer, Sharon Braig, Ewa Hermelink, Leah Prochnow, Amy Stevens, Carrie Oss, Barbara Wilkins, Leslie Wright, Christy Davis, Terencid Beauvais-Nick, Karen Charles, Deb Ellis, Jen Villarreal, Sharon Kahn-Miller, Dorothy Howe, Michelle Dupuis, Sabrina Stavish, Suzanne Morris-Sherer (Principal), Scott Lessard (AP), Mike Christoff (AP).

Lisa Allen (President) welcomes everyone, introduces self. Asks each board member to introduce herself. (Susie Sundee-VP; Janet Willson-Treasurer; Kelly Scarborough-Secretary) Karen Lutz has left TJ Partners so the board voted in Robyn Kuhlman to replace her.

- Asks attendees to introduce themselves.

- TJP's mission is to support the school; particularly we intend to focus on college or post high school readiness.

- Upcoming events: We are selling tees (\$12) and hoodies (\$30)

-Introduces administrators (Susan Morris-Sherer, Principal; Scott Lessard, AP; Mike Christoff, AP, who will answer questions at tonight's meeting

Q: Please explain the shortened passing periods.

A: (Lessard) Kids were loitering in the halls when they had more time. They are finding most kids make it to class on time. We went from 30-40 tardies a day to approx. 10. Students who are tardy have to go to after school detention (20 mins, room 108) They get 2 'freebies'.

(Morris-Sherer) Spoke to parents and kids about this issue. Kids said they were frustrated that other kids don't have a sense of urgency. College readiness is the emphasis, including being on time, proper dress and taking responsibility. We want their experience to be "real-life" as in college. The dress code is to look professional: no sagging, as it gives a negative impression; no club wear. TJ has "loner" clothes for the kids. It only takes one time and they don't do it again. Tardies: Goal is no repeats on after school detention. They think it's working: Brett Butera says that many kids are in his class by 7:15!

Q: What if they have a problem and need to come early?

A: (Lessard) Have a teacher give them a pass (daily, weekly or quarterly). School opens at 6:45.

(Morris-Sherer) No food is allowed in the hallways or classrooms. Note how clean the school is! Wants kids to be proud of the building.

Q: Can we get your thoughts on teachers meeting kids at lunch?

A: They must bring a sack lunch.

Q: Where can the kids eat lunch when there is bad weather outside since there isn't enough room for all the students to eat in the lunchroom?

A: The Cafeteria seats 366 people. Only ~260 buy lunch and many go out to buy lunch. We may be able to set up tables in the hallway as far as the metal dividers, which would add another 100 seats.

- Mr. Owens stated he had 100% attendance in 6th period after lunch for the first time.

- Spartan up cards: win food cards, hoodies, Starbucks cards for positive reinforcement. Sets the right tone to reward good behavior. 2 kids already have them full. Promotes "Self pride." Students get detention for dropping "f-bombs".

Q: *What do we do about false attendance notices?*

A: Teachers have to take attendance in 1st 5 minutes. Parents should call school if there's an error. Jenni Humphrey changes tardies to absences.

Q: *What about tardies caused by bad weather?*

A: Send a note or parents call school.

Q: *Unexcused absences?*

A: If parent doesn't call, student receives no credit if he was here. Parents MUST call within 2 days. If student skips one day, we have no policy. If it's habitual, there are consequences.

Q: *Can we pre-excuse kids for scheduled absences?*

A: Yes, for any date, but you never need a note to excuse holidays.

Q: *What about Drs. appointments/early dismissal?*

A: Parents must come in to sign the student out. Send a note in the A.M. so they can be released without disruption.

Q: *Games: are they free for students?*

A: Student athletes are free for DPS games. The student/parent rate is \$5.00/game. There is a \$60 student or parent pass to attend games the whole year; \$1 senior citizens. We are trying to build school spirit.

Q: *Will Spartan Edition start showing updated sports info?*

A: Andrew Skari and Cindy Allen were to put up a master schedule & will add unified sports. (Lessard): TJ Journal is the students' newspaper. (shows the web updates)

Q: *What's going on with getting the Lacrosse program at TJ?*

A: No returned calls at this time. They must still play at south.

Q: *Are clubs on the website?*

A: We will have that information up next week.

Q: *Where does Pay to Play money go?*

A: ½ to equipment; ½ to DPS & coaches. TJ has one of the highest participation percentages in DPS

(Lessard on technology)

Teachers will be required to have wiki pages. Many have Promethian Boards that capture lectures.

Q: *Son is on 504 plan w ADHD. When he says he has no homework, how does a parent find out for sure?*

A: Should be on Teacher Wiki page or websites. The kid can take a pic of the board @ the end of class if he can't take notes fast enough. The goal is that the kid can find notes online if he was absent.

Q: Why was Excel taken away?

A: That time is moved to Wed. Afternoons. The kids weren't using it in the a.m.

Q: What additional support is provided for kids?

A: Shield is always open (tutor center)—all day, every day. Kids can get credit recovery there as well. Can take Study Skills class in 9th grade—ID'd in 8th grade; AVID—kids start in 9th and stay together all 4 years. Designed for kids who are not being raised on a college path & have no support at home.

Q: What is the Language Requirement?

A: Recommend 2 years; preferably 3. Depends on the college entrance requirement. CU req. 3 years.

Q: Is there a plan in place to have the kids meet with counselors?

A: Consistent office hours. We have 2.5 counselors now. We will have 3 next year. Historically, counselors meet with classes collectively. 10th, 11th graders do Naviance for college prep. Counselors have to meet with all students with Red or Yellow “stoplight” (indicates struggle)

Q: What is the total number of students?

A: 1089 (408 freshmen)

Q: What if we have an issue with a teacher?

A: Speak first with teacher; then w Susanne if issue is not resolved.

Q: Can we get more resources for the Future Center to get kids in sooner?

A: Possibly parents can staff?

Susie: TJP will make it our goal to offer educational information nights.