

November 6, 2017

Education subcommittee meeting Notes: present Kevin Keating, Chris Thomas, Jasmina Besirevic Regan, Amita Singla, Corinne Castro, Sherlet Kurian, Nadine Gannon (only in early portion)

- AP courses : Mrs Gannon talked to teachers
 - (a) Hold them accountable
 - (b) Asked how to support them
 - (c) Sherlet asked about materials/textbooks -adequate amount
 - (d) Mrs. Gannon developing agreement/contract for students and parents
 - (e) Mrs. Gannon having January 9th meeting to explain what AP is and mandatory for parents to be involved
 - (f) Connie Lafemina (coordinator) runs AP tests in May
 - (g) AP classes preference to 12 graders then 11th then 10th in placement
 - (h) Question: If necessary to to take AP test, at present it is mandatory
 - (i) Mr Goeler (superintendent) would like more students in AP classes
 - (j) "Graded" by the state, points for # enrolled in AP classes and then points for 3's, 4's, 5's
 - (k) Mrs. Gannon looking into alternative program ECE: Early College Experience. UCONN class syllabus, as per their requirement, need teacher with degree in that subject in order to teach, Currently only have Statistics- Take the ECE test instead of AP to get college credit. Talking to University of Bridgeport, may have less stringent requirements
 - (l) Chris-due to budgetary restraints, may come a time that all AP classes will NOT be offered every year. Ex: Some years chem AP offered, some years not offered
- SAT's: Mrs Gannon
 - (a) Julie McNamee SAT prep director
 - (b) Looking how to incorporate style of SAT questions into curriculum tests
 - (c) Need to teach how to read quickly and pick up key points
 - (d) Outside resource,Bulldog Tutors, learn how to take a test
- Chris Thomas :Teacher perspective
 - (a) Wants us to think what our concerns and goals are
 - (b) What does the report card (STATE OF CT) tell us
 - (c) Are we focusing on the RIGHT things
 - (d) As teacher, his focus: reading, Promote more AP class participation but need to be able to READ critically
 - (e) Hamden does good job with Literacy- Have Literacy specialists headed by Ms. Liz Marini
 - (f) Other issue is WRITING, can read but can't express thoughts
 - (g) Help teach how to read college level text. Need in school and out of school program, EX: Mr. Amter- Culinary Arts, has kids read college level textbook, "chunk it out"
 - (h) Chris teaches 9th grade social studies, on positive note seeing steady progression and alignment with curriculum from HMS carrying over to HHS.

- (i) Ninth grade Team greatest success : Math/English/Social studies/ Science/Literacy specialist
- (j) Note taking, need to still teach them how to do, Amita commented on how kids don't think they need to take notes, that it will stick all in their head
- Kevin: RAISES program: (past program) Gives skills and pushes kids to go from Level 5 to 7, Level 7 to 9. Need support: after school tutor and summer tutoring, would only encourage if we have the money to support it, Suggest district hire full time grant writer for supplementing programs
- Kevin reviewed statistics: *** i didn't copy them all down, essentially* school population declining, Free reduced lunch increasing.
- Counseling services:
 - (a) counselor present for 4 years, (i) Need that relationship especially when writing college rec letter, Jasmina sees it in Yale admission office, letters from counselors that know student vs. the ones that don't truly know the student (ii) Need for post secondary planning
 - (b) Counselors offer Life skills classes (kevin) financial literacy for example
 - (c) Develop pathways to graduation- Utilize technology (chris) YouTube videos with links to different interests (algorithm)
 - (d) Educating students & parents Ex: three years ago had "university" with classes on literacy skills, Math skill, NO COMMUNITY interest
 - (e) Jasmina: Orientation not only for 9th grade, also 10th, 11th, 12th, summer prior to grade for better transition to next year; year end assemblies per grade
 - (f) Year to year planning, with diminishing supports toward independence at graduation(kevin)
 - (g) More interactive planning, (Chris) Ex: taking 9th graders on tour of different electives offered while 10th/11th taking the PSATs . Christ was surprised by some of the electives offered. *(took to ??? what was the name of the class, engineering class I think)*
 - (h) Parent LED sessions to teach other parents on how to offer support to students, See handout given to Jasmina by Kevin **** " Making a Smooth Transition to High School, Tips for Parents"**
 - (i) Sherlet: pay attention that mental health needs are met by adequate number of social workers
- Academic Literacy
 - (a) Read critically
 - (b) Teach so can understand what question is asking or saying
 - (c) Bring back modeling, use of exemplars in class (kevin)
 - (d) teach/focus on critical writing (chris)