

**Parent Advisory Board Meeting Notes**

**Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017**

**Time: 8:00am**

**Location: HS Room 103**

*(Notes were taken by Melissa. Therefore, any ‘I’ found below refers to her.)*

We began our meeting with a discussion of the secondary course options for our students. Our vision is to increase our students’ opportunities and to detail the programs available to them. Our tree is one way to share these opportunities visually.

* College Credit Recommendations
  + The bulk of our time was spent discussing upcoming administrative recommendations to address our participation in college-level programming such as the Bloomsburg University (BU) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program and BU Advance College Experience (ACE) Program. Both of these programs allow local students the opportunity to earn college credits while potentially earning high school credit at the same time. BU provides the opportunities but allows each district to determine if/how the credits will count. Our district’s ***current participation*** differs between both programs.
    - For STEM, students who are accepted into the program are able to leave the school each afternoon to take the classes during the school day. Each class they take (two courses each semester with eight total during the two-year program) counts toward their high school credit requirements and is weighted at the same level as Advanced Placement (AP) courses taken on-campus. Because our students who remain on campus have the potential of only five AP courses, STEM students have the opportunity to accumulate three more classes at the highest weighting. In addition, BU has begun allowing our STEM students to take alternate classes while on campus. In some cases, rather than taking classes within the STEM Program, students have been granted less rigorous classes. Without a procedure in place, these classes were granted the same weighting as the more rigorous courses within the program.
    - In terms of ACE, our district does not accept these credits toward graduation. If taken, our students must take them outside of the school day and receive no credit toward their high school graduation requirements.
  + Our recommendations seek to increase our students’ participation in college-level programming with all approved partners, while setting boundaries on the weighting and credits awarded in the BU STEM Program.
    - For STEM, we propose awarding 1.06 level weighting for these courses rather than the previous 1.10 level weighting. In this way, we are providing all students the same opportunity for our highest level weighting through AP courses on-campus. Those who participate in the BU STEM Program will still have the opportunity to earn eight credits with the honors-level weighting beyond what they take with us. For all classes taken at the university, students will earn high school core and/or elective credits. Core credits will only be issued for those courses approved by the high school teachers and guidance counselors. This decision will be based on the course being equivalent or higher in rigor to our available honors courses.
    - For ACE (and all other college courses taken through our partnerships), we propose awarding elective high school credit without additional weighting. Because our students need six elective credits toward high school graduation, they could earn 18 college credits while fulfilling this requirement. At this time, we have approved partnerships with Bloomsburg University and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. We have met with Luzerne County Community College to discuss a possible partnership as well.
  + Those in attendance shared great feedback concerning this proposal.
    - In particular, one parent suggested that the university and high school work to complement one another better. We agree that our partnership allows students the opportunity to not only experience college courses but also take courses that we are unable to offer here.
    - An additional suggestion regarding weighting was to allow the 1.10 weight but to set a maximum on the number of courses that STEM students could take at the higher-level weighting.
    - Consideration for the higher-level weighting for those courses that are above what is offered here (Calculus II, for example) was also encouraged.
    - We will share all of these thoughts with our teachers prior to making our final recommendations.
* Prom Conflict
  + Our Prom date, April 29, 2017 is the same weekend and venue this year that it was last year. Because there were no conflicts last year, we scheduled it a year in advance. Although we checked the date against the Bloomsburg Renaissance Jamboree date (fourth Saturday in April) back in November, there is now a conflict this year. After speaking to the event’s organizers, we learned that the Renaissance Jamboree date was moved this year due to the Block Party being scheduled at the same time (April 22, 2017). With Easter weekend the Saturday prior (April 15, 2017), the Renaissance Jamboree decided to have it on the fifth Saturday this year.
    - The issue created by this is the congestion in town, especially around the fountain, where our students are often photographed prior to the Prom. A request was made of the committee to clear a space around the fountain between the hours of 3:00pm-5:00pm in order to accommodate the traditional pictures. Unfortunately, the committee is unable to do this. While our students can still have pictures taken in front of the fountain, they will have the event in the background.
    - Prior discussions with the class advisors and class officers included the possibility of transporting our students from the school to town in order to avoid added congestion. Attendees of the meeting suggested parking at Memorial Elementary school and then walking there as well.
    - Most attendees agreed that there are always items/people in the background, so this year will be no different. They did suggest alerting the event organizers to expect them in that area between 3:00pm and 5:00pm because parents and students are still likely to take the pictures.
    - I am meeting with the class advisors this morning to share our progress on this issue and reconsider our options. I noted that we would send correspondence to our families to alert them of this conflict in advance and to apologize for the scheduling conflict. It is important to us that our parents and students understand the lengths to which we went to avoid this.
* Course Scheduling Process, 2017-2018 School Year
  + I shared with the group that we are on track with our course request process. At this point, all requests have been received and reviewed by our teachers and guidance counselors. All recommended changes will be shared with parents and students during the week of March 13-17, 2017 prior to moving on to the next step in the scheduling process. The timeline is available on our website under Administration- Mrs. Day.
* Lunch Offerings
  + Melissa Everhart, fellow parent and Food Service Director, joined us to discuss the lunch program and receive feedback. She said that a recent intern informally surveyed the students in order to find out what more we can do to encourage them to purchase lunch. She noted that they tried a deli bar, which was well received, so they are going to offer it once per week. Two parents shared their satisfaction with the program and another suggested that we conduct an online survey to get more honest feedback from the students. Melissa said that she will do this and requested that parents contact her at [meverhart@bloomsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:meverhart@bloomsd.k12.pa.us) with any additional suggestions.
* Senior Survey
  + Tammy Mrozek, guidance counselor, joined us to hear thoughts on the college credit recommendations and to share information regarding the senior survey. She said that the survey link was shared with students and must be completed by mid-March. Although it is a relatively short survey, she noted that only 50% had completed the process so far. Because it is used by our faculty scholarship committee to determine winners, she encourages all students to complete it. Some parents noted that their children did not submit it because they have not decided upon their college of choice. Tammy noted that it is more important to know if they are going to college and less important to know exactly where. She said that she would follow up with the students to tell them that this information can be changed later if necessary.
* Open House Considerations
  + Because we are currently considering dates for the upcoming school year’s Open House, I requested thoughts on the date and/or its format. In terms of date, we are considering a night after the first two weeks of school in order to have more conversation regarding student progress and concerns. There was agreement with this. I noted that we currently use an open format (parents/students are free to move throughout the building and speak to any teacher) and asked if anyone had thoughts regarding that. While a more structured format may work for some parents, many felt that it leads to less time to speak with teachers. Some additional ideas were to include college representatives to discuss options for our students and to include information on our club opportunities for parents. We will consider all of these options in an attempt to increase our attendance at Open House this fall.
  + In terms of clubs, we were told that our website includes some clubs that do not have current information. (These clubs were made inactive on the website and I will ask advisors to update information to be included.)
  + As part of our Open House discussion, we spoke briefly about a Course of Study meeting for incoming parents. We were asked to share the details of these meetings with private schools in order to include potential students and their parents in these meetings.
* Additional Concerns
  + Homecoming, 2017: The potential difficulty in scheduling this year’s Homecoming was addressed. Dr. Wheeler noted that we are considering options for Homecoming this year, which could include participating in Bloomsburg University’s festivities during their Homecoming Week and also having our own festivities another weekend. Those in attendance viewed the consideration favorably. We will share updates when we have those.

***Our next meeting date will occur in late March or early April. Once determined, a message will be sent via our notification system and the date will be placed on the website.***