

**Parent Advisory Board Meeting Notes**

**Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017**

**Time: 6:00pm**

**Location: HS Cafeteria**

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

* Major Event Scheduling
	+ Commencement Update
		- We began our meeting with an update on the end of the school year. In response to the difficulties schools were facing due to winter cancellations, Governor Tom Wolf made emergency declarations to allow schools to meet the minimum number of hours for instruction in lieu of 180 days. Given that information, the school board will vote upon an adjusted school calendar at the April 3, 2017 meeting. For our seniors, it will be recommended that our commencement remain on Thursday, June 8, 2017 without additional instructional days over Easter break or on Saturdays. For all students in grades K-11, it will be recommended that our students attend until Wednesday, June 14, which will be a half day. Easter break will remain intact. Again, these are all recommendations upon which the board will vote. We are hopeful that they will be approved on April 3, 2017. Once the adjusted district calendar is approved, all parents will be updated.
	+ Homecoming Update
		- We must schedule our Homecoming festivities based on the games that are scheduled by the Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference (PHAC). Because we have three away football games on October 6, 13, and 20, we cannot schedule BHS Homecoming the same weekend as Bloomsburg University. We can still participate in the parade, however. At this point, we are certain that no change can be made to the away games that were scheduled in October. We will continue to consider other dates for Homecoming and will make a recommendation to the board soon.
	+ Prom Scheduling
		- Due to the Renaissance Jamboree Committee’s decision to move their event to the fifth weekend in April this year, our advisors have decided to move next year’s Prom back into May. They have consulted with the athletic director and administration to avoid any conflicts with other school events. They will keep all of this information in mind when consulting venues.
* STEM Recommendation Approval
	+ Our STEM recommendation was approved by the school board at its last meeting. As a reminder, it included the following adjustments: *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.*
	+ One question at the meeting was whether we would amend the current STEM students’ grades in accordance with this. I shared that we would begin this procedure in the fall rather than adjust grades for this semester or any previous semesters.
* College Credit Recommendation Review
	+ For ACE (and all other college courses taken through our partnerships), we recently recommended 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. Since the original discussion with the board, we have updated the recommendation to include the following*: These courses will be reflected on students’ official transcripts. As such, these credits will count toward Grade Point Average (GPA) and will therefore affect class rank. Students may elect to take up to three college classes on a Pass/Fail basis, in which case the grades would not affect Grade Point Averages (GPA) or class rank. Election for Pass/Fail must be completed prior to the start of the course, however. Our focus remains on the opportunity for students to gain exposure to college-level courses while receiving the supports that our high school provides.* This will be voted upon by the board at a future meeting.
	+ We again discussed the possibility that a STEM student and ACE student may be in the same class together with one receiving core credit (STEM) and the other receiving elective credit (ACE). I shared that because the STEM Program participants must apply and be accepted, they do have that additional benefit. If an ACE student should decide to take one of the STEM-approved courses, we can consider counting it as core credit.
* Physical Education Recommendation Discussion
	+ Based on previous discussions with our Parent Advisory Board, we are recommending the creation of a before-school physical education class for next school year in order to provide greater scheduling flexibility to our students. Personal Fitness offers personalized exercise programs and is therefore best suited for this unique opportunity. This semester-long course will meet four days per week from 6:45am-7:38am, the last ten minutes of which will be for student changing. This allows for the instructional hours required in a .5 credit class and accommodates the teacher’s attendance at required Wednesday morning meetings. All in attendance were in favor of the recommendation. It will be shared with the school board on April 3, 2017 for discussion, while a formal vote will not occur until a future meeting.
* Course Scheduling Process, 2017-2018 School Year
	+ I updated everyone on the scheduling process. We are currently on track to share our students’ tentative schedules in May. We will share these with our current juniors first and then allow a period for schedule change requests before moving on to our current sophomores, freshmen, and 8th grade students. This allows us to prioritize our seniors’ schedules above the others.
* Additional Concerns
	+ Student Driving: Parents shared concerns regarding the reckless driving of some of our students to school. A request to the police to monitor the area more closely was made. I shared that Mr. Bressi has already reached out to Chief Van Loan and that they have increased their patrols in the area before and after school. I encouraged parents to report issues even if they do not know who is driving. Mr. Bressi and I have investigated these issues and assigned consequences in the past. This includes notification of the police when warranted.
	+ NCAA Clearinghouse: As part of our discussion, we spoke briefly about the requirements for student-athletes who may be considering a collegiate athletic career. Attached please find a draft of the NCAA Graduation Checklist that we intend to share with student-athletes and their parents next school year. We can discuss this further in the future.
	+ Calendars: We again discussed the difficulty of multiple calendars on the website. A suggestion was made that the entire district use the same calendar and then “layer” the events for each building in order to allow parents/students the ability to select which items they would like to see. In addition, one parent volunteered to work with the athletic director in order to synchronize the Schedule Star calendar with Schoolwires (our website hosting company). I shared the information with Mr. Simpson.
	+ Senior Breakfast & Matriculation Board: Bonnie Crawford shared that this will be the last year that she will prepare the matriculation board for seniors and organize the senior breakfast. There were some volunteers to take these items over and to help this year. We will make a One Call notification to all senior parents in May in order to get volunteers and donations for the breakfast, which will likely be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.