

Hawthorne High School

1/19/2010 Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting notes taken by D. Barnes. Minutes written by Daniel Barnes. Edits by Sandra Goins.
CVSTA Representatives Present: S. Anderson, D. Barnes, P. Martinez
Administrators Present: M. Martinez, M. Newell
Administrators Absent: E. Hirata, M. Knapp, K. Nicolis

1. HEATERS: Mr. Knapp was not present for the meeting, so M. Martinez will talk to him about the status of getting our heaters fixed. No repairs have been reported to this author as of 1/22/2010. At least shivering burns calories.

2. ABDUCTED POSSESSIONS: According to M. Martinez, most of the stuff taken out of the room in the 23 building has been returned, but according to the teacher, some of the missing stuff is sorely missed. Since the last FAC meeting, more stuff has disappeared from various locations. A teacher in the 18 building reported three drawers of personal stuff stolen. A teacher in the 17 building reported a wrench missing from the heater room there, a critical wrench needed for turning the Bunsen burner gas supply on and off. The continuing moral of the story: assume stuff will continue to be stolen. Don't leave anything valuable in your room. Keep reporting it to M. Martinez, with Cc's to Knapp and Barnes. Paper trails are being propagated.

3. VERMIN: Building 9 reports that crickets and cockroaches are no longer a problem.

4. ROOM CLEANING: Complaints continue (what else is new?), but lately, as you've probably read in an e-mail from M. Knapp, two custodians are out on medical leave and the district doesn't have enough substitutes to fill the positions, so the sick custodians' runs have been split up amongst the active custodians, meaning that they have even less time to spend on each room. The district is in the process of testing and fingerprinting more custodian applicants, a process that has been delayed in recent months. The district employees who are responsible for the hiring process are new and inherited a backlog from their predecessors, so they're doing the best they can, having had a lagging situation tossed in their laps. Once custodial applicants are properly processed, the available pool of hireable custodians will be non-zero, allowing not only for the hiring of substitute custodians, but also potential replacements for any current employees. FAC

has been assured that paper trails are being propagated and that accountability is getting closer and closer to manifestation. M. Martinez will talk to Vanessa Martinez (no relation) at the D.O. and advocate a stronger stance on custodian accountability.

5. INAUDIBLE BELLS: M. Martinez said that yes, he checked in person, and it is indeed impossible to hear the bells over in the building 23 area. Apparently, this has been the case since the building was built. He will talk to the district office about getting the bells fixed/replaced/installed(?) over there. Frank Garduno, a purchasing agent for the district, will be touring the campus at some point soon, and M. Martinez will talk to him about what he can do about getting the district to pony up for parts & labor. In the meantime, teachers in the 23 building are encouraged to utilize all methods and devices available to them to tell time during this period of inconvenience. Wristwatches, cell phones, and computers all tell time. Properly-set timers (kitchen and otherwise) can warn when the period is about to end. The bells are typically behind official government time, but this offset tends to remain consistent, so even though they are inaccurate, they are, at least, predictable, once you get to know them. According to <http://www.time.gov/timezone.cgi?Pacific/d/-8/java>, to which the FAC chair sets his watch, the school's bells are about one and a quarter minutes behind government time. If you set your watch &/or computer to government time and dismiss kids at what appears to be just a little more than a minute late, then your dismissals will probably be in sync with the bells. I do not guarantee that this is true, but I am pretty confident in my offset estimation.

6. STUDENT RESTROOMS OPEN AFTER SCHOOL: Contrary to assurances made at the previous FAC meeting, the west student restrooms (and possibly the east?) have not been kept open after school to accommodate students who participate in legitimate after-school activities and who, therefore, need somewhere to change clothes and/or excrete

and/or wash up. M. Martinez said that he informed security that they were supposed to leave the bathrooms open after school, and that he would re-inform them. In fact, to more efficiently handle after-school security needs, some security guards' work hours have already been shifted to later in the day, from morning to afternoon. If any teachers have after-school students who need bathroom access during legitimate after-school activities, please direct them to the student restrooms instead of the faculty restrooms. If the student restrooms are closed, please contact M. Martinez. UPDATE: It's Friday afternoon, 1/22/2010, 3:18 PM, and I just did a visual on the west student restrooms. Both the boys' and girls' restrooms are open! You may now all degenerate into a frenzy of fist-pumping.

7. [combined w/item #4]

8. FAC MEETING RE-SCHEDULE? E. Hirata and K. Nicolis have missed two FAC meetings in a row, but all admin seem to feel that this is just a tragic coincidence and that Tuesdays are still the best meeting days for FAC. FAC will continue to meet on Tuesdays. With any luck, FAC's estrogen levels will be restored soon.

9. [combined w/item #4]

10. TARDIES: One teacher complained that although tardy enforcement is pretty strong during tardy sweeps, it is lax the other 98% of the time. M. Martinez mentioned that some parents are dropping kids off late at the beginning of the day. M. Newell mentioned that recently there were two days of Saturday school and that large numbers of kids showed up to both days. M. Newell says that occasional 8 AM tardy sweeps will be implemented soon. If such first-block tardy sweeps do occur, the number of students attending detention and Saturday school should swell significantly.

11. FACULTY MEETING: Although there have been endless complaints about faculty meetings in the past, the one we just had on 1/13/10 actually drew expressions of gratitude from numerous teachers who appreciate this mode of admin/teacher communication. M. Newell now owes you all a dollar AND no one was kept after 3 pm. We win twice!

12. NEWELL GONE WILD: One teacher forwarded to FAC that lots of kids really appreciated M. Newell ripping his shirt off at the Renaissance rally. I guess there's a Team Jacob presence out there.

If you have any complaints, suggestions, or praise that you would like added to the next FAC meeting's agenda, please email misterbarneshhs@socal.rr.com, or, if you want to remain anonymous, leave a note in Dan Barnes' box. Also, please let Mr. Barnes know your observations of how well the promises made in these minutes are being enacted.