

Hawthorne High School

6/15/2010 Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting notes taken by D. Barnes. Minutes written by Daniel Barnes. Possible edits by Sandra Goins.

Faculty Representatives Present: Daniel Barnes, Pedro Martinez (left early)

Faculty Representatives Absent: Steven Anderson

Administrators Present: Michael Martinez, Mark Newell (left early), Karma Nicolis,

Administrators Absent: Mark Knapp, Elizabeth Wilson

1. NO RESULTS: Several teachers continue to complain that even though they make official complaints through this and other channels, their concerns aren't redressed. The most common unrequited complaint FAC receives is about custodial service to classrooms, but it isn't limited to that alone. P. Martinez mentioned the frequent complaint that student restrooms are frequently unstocked with paper products and soap, which is in violation of Ed Code. M. Newell acknowledged that student restrooms are generally unsanitary, and that he wouldn't want his own kids using them. Regarding lingering air conditioning problems in the 3 building, Newell reminded FAC that the decision to fix them or not hinges upon the D.O. freeing up the \$ for it.

2. DETENTION/SATURDAY SCHOOL: Some teachers are grateful for the way the deans are running detention and Saturday school. Record-keeping (the posted detention log spreadsheet) was mentioned in particular.

3. AP APPLICATION PROCESSING REBUTTAL & REBUTTAL TO THE REBUTTAL . . . : One anonymous correspondent felt that teachers who complained about harshly treated students weren't actually present at the hearings where the alleged mistreatment occurred, so they had no business criticizing that which they did not witness directly. The correspondent cautioned that getting a picture of an event solely through student word-of-mouth is dangerous, since students tend to tilt their testimony in their own favor. K. Nicolis, who was present at the hearings, corroborated this and other claims of the correspondent, stating that no students were maltreated in any way, but that several AP course applicants were turned down for legitimate reasons, including excessive desired AP course loads (5 AP classes applied for in some cases), past records of failure, et cetera. Students aren't always going to get everything they want (M. Jagger, et al), and when they don't, it doesn't necessarily mean that they were maltreated. Furthermore, according to the correspondent, certain students came into their hearings angry, defensive, and, in some cases, eating food.

The correspondent claimed that perhaps AP teachers made deliberate attempts to artificially inflate their AP course body counts to reduce the

number of non-AP course sections they would have to teach, and thereby avoid teaching undesirable students. The correspondent said that students told him/her (?) that AP teachers told those students they should be in AP classes because students in other classes aren't focused and that teachers of other classes don't teach them anything. S. Anderson rebutted this aspect of the rebuttal, invoking the very argument the correspondent him/herself had used, that you shouldn't take student say-so too seriously when it incriminates a staff member. Don't assume things were said during a conversation to which you were not a direct witness. Anderson further said that he and other dissatisfied AP/other teachers had told students to tell Mr. Newell their stories in their own words, so that teacher bias/misconceptions couldn't possibly enter into their testimonies.

4. PARENTAL EMAIL ADDRESSES IN POWER TEACHER: K. Nicolis and M. Newell said that, yes, it would be great if we could get a space for parental email address on the registration form used every year, but that it might cost too much money to get them re-printed. However, Newell suggested perhaps we could add an HHS-specific tear-off page to the parent/student handbook that the district prints. We could, perhaps, put a space or spaces for parental email addresses on that HHS-specific page and parents could turn this page in along with the other tear-off pages they submit every year during registration.

5. ADMIN WALK-AROUNDS NEEDED: One teacher complained that employee lollygagging and the like would be more easily seen by administrators firsthand if they would do some walk-arounds. M. Martinez said he would do so.

6. GENERAL CLUTTER BAD: One teacher complained that the campus seems even more cluttered now than it was back when we had more students. Although this complaint is probably mostly about the trash kids leave during lunch, M. Martinez and K. Nicolis felt that the maintenance workers and One Stop workers who clean up after lunch are actually impressively on top of things. ("One Stop" is some kind of community program that gives people work. Ask admin for details. This author is ignorant.)

7. [ITEM DELETED BY REQUEST OF CONTRIBUTOR]

8. MENDEZ RELOCATED: One teacher was dismayed that security officer Mendez has been re-assigned to the front gate kiosk. The teacher felt that he had been doing a great job patrolling the halls and shepherding kids along/et cetera. M. Martinez said that Mendez was re-located to the front gate because of his superior parent-handling skills/temperament. Martinez cited diplomatic difficulties that had erupted previously between Mendez' predecessor and a certain parent who frequently visited campus.

9. SLOW SECURITY RESPONSE: One complainant knows of several teachers who have had very slow security response lately and doesn't understand why they can't respond immediately, since all of them have walkie-talkies, and should, therefore, hear every request that comes over the airwaves. M. Martinez offered several possible explanations. For one thing, around lunchtime, two guards at a time take a lunch break, so we are temporarily 2 guards short during those intervals. Also, if a call comes in when the guards are changing shifts, there could be lag. Some days over the last few months have been heavy days, where an unusual number of incidents have occurred. Also, when Lorri Peterson (the secretary who answers x4443) is not at school, which happened for 8 days straight recently, getting a hold of guards becomes more cumbersome. Since the complaints did not include specific dates and times, it is difficult to determine if any of these explanations applies to any particular response lag incident.

10. EXTINCT PROGRAMS: One teacher wondered what ever happened to the no-go list and student of the month awards. Kathy Dragone was in charge of the no-go list until she was transferred, and her replacement wasn't told about the system, so it wasn't continued. However, M. Martinez said that the institution will, perhaps, be revived next year, as might be, also, the student of the month awards. K. Nicolis, prior to prom, had asked M. Newell about whether or not there would be a no-go list for the prom, but Newell told her that there would

be no such thing for prom this year. M. Martinez did say that certain individuals have been placed on an equivalent of no-go status, but that this has been on a per individual basis this year, and has not been part of any broadly-applied mass policy.

11. MENTORING FOR STUDENTS: One teacher suggested that students with chronic and widespread problems (failing numerous classes, recurring discipline problems, etc.) should receive mentoring of some kind. M. Martinez would be happy if the teacher who suggested this would please contact him to formally volunteer to be such a mentor.

12. CUSTODIAL UPDATE: According to one complainant, the women's restroom in the 22 building has continued to be unstocked with paper towels and toilet paper. This is a recurring complaint. M. Martinez called M. Knapp upon receipt of an e-mail from this teacher regarding the stocking deficiency, to which Knapp replied that some teacher is letting kids into that bathroom after school. The custodian in charge is, reportedly, stocking the bathroom at 5 pm or so, but student (ab)use between 5 pm and 10 pm lockdown cancels out the efforts made at 5 pm. The custodian in charge of that bathroom, apparently, doesn't have time in his/her shift to service the bathroom twice each night. M. Martinez has a suspicion which student group is being allowed in and will contact the adult supervisor of that group to make sure the supervisor knows not to let students into faculty restrooms.

13. ACCESS DURING SUMMER: M. Martinez said that teacher access to HHS by faculty during the summer should be quite good, with the exception of the 17 portables, room 17-5, and room 17-3, which will be used for CELDT testing.

14. SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH: This author needs to quit FAC to re-focus his resources (attention/energy/time) on teaching. Besides, the spirit of term limits demands it. I wish whoever (sing/plural) takes over the best of luck. To all the rest of you, keep plucking that chicken!

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. You may also 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.