

Hawthorne High School

12/15/2009 Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting notes taken by D. Barnes. Minutes written by Daniel Barnes. Possible edits by Sandra Goins.
CVSTA Representatives Present: S. Anderson, D. Barnes, P. Martinez
Administrators Present: M. Martinez, M. Knapp

1. INVOLUNTARY CRYOGENICS EXPERIMENTS:

Heaters in various buildings around campus (bldgs 9, 16, 17, and perhaps some not yet documented) are malfunctioning in various ways. Many blow cold air. Some blow smelly air. Some two-room heaters heat one room but not the other, forcing the heater to be shut off entirely to avoid freezing the appendages off of one room's students in the very act of warming up those the adjacent room. Plant manager Mark Knapp acknowledged that we have a multi-location problem. He said that money and repair personnel availability are both issues, but that, perhaps, some replacement parts *might* be installed or at least on order by the time we get back from break. Some heaters may have problems so severe that fixing isn't feasible. (One heater was vandalized by fire extinguisher spray, making an entire re-build necessary to clean it.) CVSTA President Erik Carlstone confirmed w/FAC chair by e-mail that Leuzinger and Lawndale also have heater issues. Mr. Carlstone will raise this issue at the next SAC (Superintendent's Advisory Committee) meeting. With any luck, Mr. Carlstone's efforts may convince the district to free up funds for heater repair. Word is travelling through the grapevine that the superintendent just got another raise (to \$198k/yr?). Surely, this indicates that the district is no longer in financial trouble and we can now afford such bare necessities as climate control, both for its own intrinsic merits but also to help the district avoid vulnerability to Williams-related lawsuits. ("School facilities must be clean, safe, and maintained in good repair.") In the meantime, until things are fixed, enjoy your stay in Cocytus. It's minty fresh!TM

2. FURNITURE ABDUCTIONS: Stuff continues to disappear without leave from classrooms. Since the last FAC cycle, a room in the 17 building had two stools disappear over the very same weekend that various things (boxes, power strips, desks, boxes) disappeared from the 23 building. Mr. Knapp has talked to the custodian who was in charge of both those runs on the weekend in question and reminded him that custodians are not to remove furniture and other items without the knowledge and approval of the teacher in charge of the room. Subsequently, some of the missing items have reappeared. Some have not. FAC chair advises all faculty to e-mail knappm@centinela.k12.ca.us whenever anything disappears from your room that probably wasn't taken by a student. Please cc barnesd@centinela.k12.ca.us to reinforce the paper trail.

3. VERMIN UPDATE: M Knapp aerosol-bombed the bldg 19 English supply closet. No word yet on the results of that fogging or subsequent cleanup. The 23 bldg was sprayed in the 2nd or 3rd week of Nov.. Cockroach presence in 9 bldg is still "epic"; lethargic roaches seem to be crawling out of cracks to die. E. Carlstone informed FAC chair that Leuzinger and Lawndale are also experiencing vermin issues. E Carlstone will bring this issue up at the next SAC meeting (as with heater issue).

4. RUPOSTASIS: 9 building experiencing unchanged liners, failure to sweep. 18/19 buildings "not swept on a daily basis and mopped only once a year". M Knapp acknowledges deficiencies and affirms that a paper trail is being developed. Mr. Knapp appreciates receiving emails regarding room-cleaning deficiencies.

5. SECURITY DELAYING STUDENTS: Mr. Martinez assured FAC that security guards will now carry hall passes with them and write tardy passes for students that they detain for questioning at the end of lunch, etc.. In theory, then, there will now be no more kids saying "Security said you could just call them."

6. PREMATURE DISMISSAL: A teacher complained that someone in the 23 building is dismissing their students two minutes early nearly every day. Mr. Martinez would like to know specifically which room they're coming from if it's known. He will also stand outside the 23 building just before passing period to determine if the bells are audible over there. It was suggested that it might be a sub doing it, but the frequency of occurrence is just too high.

7. LUNCH UPSTAIRS: Mr. Martinez personally thinks it would be just fine to have the cafeteria staff sell food to teachers again upstairs, but there needs to be a sufficient number of teachers who would buy food regularly up there for it to be worth the personnel allocation. There was some discussion about perhaps getting teachers set up with prepaid meal cards so they could buy food just like the kids do, right where the kids do, if hauling food upstairs doesn't make sufficient sense.

8. ANNOUNCING TARDY SWEEPS: In response to the teacher who suggested that admin stop announcing tardy sweeps, Mr. Martinez said that

there would continue to be announced sweeps, but that unannounced sweeps would also be conducted. It will be in addition to rather than instead of.

9. TARDY/TRUANT STUDENTS: Mr. Martinez said that it's against Ed Code to suspend students for excessive tardies. However, he did say that letters have been sent home to parents of habitual truants, warning them that fines can be levied against the parents of students who repeatedly fail to attend class.

10. SURPRISE ROLL CHANGES: One teacher complained that there is no warning when students are added to roll lists or dropped from classes. They simply appear or disappear, with nothing to draw attention to the fact. S. Anderson has heard that PowerSchool has the capability to send notices to teachers when kids add or drop classes, but that it requires that the district/site buy and implement software add-ons. Mr. Martinez said that he could ask the attendance office to provide hard copy add/drop notices, like they did during the SASI era. Perhaps, once this practice is re-instituted, when a student is added to a class but never shows up, we won't obviously keep marking him present by omission

11. INELIGIBLE ATHLETES: One teacher complained that many athletes whose grades and/or other statistics make them ineligible for CIF competition are being allowed to play in games, the implication being that coaches and/or the athletic director are not actively screening athletes' grades assiduously enough. Mr. Martinez said that he's talked to the athletic director about this once before. He also mentioned that the AD is no longer the head football coach, so that this should free up some of his man-hours to allow for more grade/behavior monitoring/enforcement. Mr. Martinez will re-tackle the issue after break.

12. GENDER RE-ASSIGNMENT SURGERY: Despite the lack of urinals, the unisex restroom in the 11 building has recently been converted into a men's room, to which numerous female teachers in the area have cried foul. According to the first of three complainants, female faculty in the area now have to go all the way to the 6 building, which is nearly impossible during passing periods. When asked why the re-designation occurred, admin present said that a male teacher complained that a

zero period teacher was allowing students to use the bathroom, which opened up the potential for some awkward/dangerous social/legal situations. The fact that the restroom door lacks an "occupied/vacant" indicator makes inappropriate surprise encounters an even greater threat. This raised the more general issue of the inappropriateness of teachers allowing students to use faculty restrooms at all, ever. In addition to concerns about littering, paper product depletion, and vandalism, some teachers are just not comfortable with the idea of ever being put in a situation where they might, knowingly or unknowingly, deploy excretion hardware in the same confined area where students of either gender are present, students who might be doing the same. Think about it. Perhaps it's fine for students and teachers to sing together, talk together, laugh together, learn together, and grow together, but students and teachers should never pull down their pants together. It's just not a good career move. Mr. Martinez concurred that students should NEVER be allowed in faculty restrooms and agreed that faculty need to be re-informed of this. Mr. Martinez assured FAC that student restrooms would be kept open whenever legitimate student activities (cheerleading practice, after-school tutoring, club meetings, etc.) occur, so that teachers and coaches would never again be tempted to break the rule prohibiting giving students access to faculty restrooms. He said that he would order security to keep student restrooms open whenever students are legitimately present on campus. He also would like any teachers who supervise legitimate student activities before or after school to let him know when such activities occur so that he can ensure that student restrooms are open during those times. As to the building 11 restroom, Mr. Martinez said simply that the 11 building restroom would remain a men's-only restroom, with no hint of any room for negotiation or potential for budging. FAC chair is still left curious as to the big picture and would like to see a map of campus with restrooms labeled, perhaps with color-coded highlighting showing gender designations, to give a sense of just how equitable the geometric distribution of facilities now is. Since FAC chair doesn't get out of his neck of the woods much, anyone with a mind to is encouraged to inform him, via barnesd@centinela.k12.ca.us, just where all restrooms on campus are located, including their gender designation.

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.