

NSHS School Council Meeting October 24, 2017

Attending: May Chiu and Martha Hausman (co-chairs), Bella Ertel, Sue Flicop, Ricardo Gessa, Helen Haley, Amelia Pennell, Dan Rubin, Kathy Sabet, Risa Shames, Joel Stenbridge (principal), Lisa Terrizzi, Euro Wang, Deborah Youngblood

1. Approve the minutes from last meeting: no questions or changes—will be posted on the website.

2. Principal's update:

Work on building community: On Tuesdays, teachers are meeting on teams—either department or school-wide. School-wide teams focused on community service, school spirit, faculty fun, faculty wellness, senior year experience—each team has school-wide representation across departments.

First “Roar”um: J block, 150 students—asked question about their hopes from South and conversation evolved from there. Topics included:

- spirit at South and what connectedness is.
- how they feel most connected when teachers know students’ names and know about their interests
- don’t know what other students are doing
- what it is like to be in a school that has a competitive environment
- transgender issues.

Students left with a note about an action they would take, and a suggestion (“I wish that South could...”)

Community-Building Exercise: Lip-Dub day before Thanksgiving: students recommend and then vote on song—chose “Party in the USA”. Leadership working on it, but all students will be involved. Have both A and B block, then club time. End up with whole school in one of the gyms or the courtyard.

No pep rally in October because field house is under construction—will have on in February.

3. School Culture survey results and discussion: if you ask students, they love an aspect of South, but not South as a whole. Trying to figure out why—13 people responded to the survey of School Council.

Going through list and addressing some of the items:

1. Parking is an annoyance, but can’t do much about it. Is this about enforcement?

2. Homework came up a lot. Faculty had a whole year of discussion on homework—decided to aim for 30 minutes of homework for each class. Challenging to create a rule because it is hard to predict how long each student would take—can’t promise 30 minutes to each student (with or without distractions).

3. Break-out groups: Use list as a starting point, go through them and even add more. End up with 4 or 5 that each group wants to work on this year. Rank them so that we can share out and vote on them

4. Groups listed their top choices and then we discussed them. Each person chose their top three and then put stickers on them. The results will be discussed at the next meeting.
Survey vote results: **Attachment A for group rankings and votes. Yellow (parent), Red (student), Blue (faculty)**