

PAB Minutes
1/15/07

1. Enrollment in PSD, FRHS and School of Choice:
We looked at the trends over a 10 year period and the projections for the next four years. Please check the PSD website for more information on School of Choice deadlines (2/9/07).
2. Curriculum Fair and Parent Teacher Conferences
FRHS curriculum fair is January 29th from 6-7:30pm. This is a great opportunity to explore offerings and see the school. Suggestions from the PAB included making sure 8th graders are invited so that they understand that their freshman course choices impact their 10th grade school choices.
3. Parent Teacher Conferences are February 26th from 4:30 – 7:30. Suggestions so that parents are not waiting in line for long periods of time include: 1) setting up other times when teachers can meet with teachers outside of that evening; 2) Egg timers as a reminder; handing parents cards with teachers email address and plan periods so that they can finish conversations at a later time; 3) Sign up pad, notes home and a list on the web of teachers who will not be there that evening.
4. Newsletter is on the web.
5. Discussion of security and the computer thefts.
6. A discussion of purchasing the book “How to Get Good Grades” for our incoming sophomores:
 1. Create our own versions of the ten steps
 2. Put the 10 steps in the handbook
 3. Put the 10 steps on a business card for students to keep
 4. Get these in the hands of 9th graders so that they can understand that their grades count. “HELLO YOUR GRADES COUNT NOW!”
 5. Teach in Advisory.Dierdre will work on this for the next meeting.
7. Snow and finals.
 1. Students were safe at school and PSD worked to coordinate the best way to transport all students home.
 2. Announcements started at 9:30 am 12/20/06 telling students to check the web page for the updated final schedule, have their materials with them.
 3. At 11:00 am students were encouraged to not drive at lunch and to stay put on campus and again the information about checking the web site and that staff had a schedule for Friday if all test would be held then.
 4. School dismissed at 2:05 and the last bus left here at 3:50 and took all students who didn't have a ride. Officer Rice transported some folks who needed that help and staff was in the lots digging folks out. We encouraged students to use the phones and be in contact with parents.
 5. Finals were given so that students could:
 - i. Finish what they had started and give closure to a 5 month semester. 40 -50 students had taken finals before the schedule on pre-arranged absences for travel and surgery, etc. Two test had already been given.

- ii. The value of assessment didn't change due to snow or vacation. Assessments are a valid tool for measuring student learning. The staff believes that if students truly learned, they retain the information for more than a 19 day break. Learning is an on-going process and not a process of cramming for a final and then losing the information. Grades should certify the level that a student has learned information and the work skills that go along with their commitment to learning.
- iii. Rigor is at the forefront of the educational goals of FRHS. In the mission statement it clearly states that frequent evaluation to determine our progress in achieving , "Excellence, Everywhere"
- iv. Staff uses the Blackboard classroom to stay in touch with students when they can't be in school – even when that absence is due to student illness. Those sites were updated for students during the break.
- v. The FRHS website is a good source of information and was updated three times over the break to have the latest schedule available.
- vi. FRHS is not responsible for decisions made at other high schools, but the staff feels a great responsibility to prepare our students to be life-long learners and to hold true to the commitments that we have made to ensure the highest level of teaching and assessment in all courses. Busy work or the belief that assignments should not be reflected in a course grade is not held at FRHS. School work matters, grades matter, and the measurement of learning matters.
- vii. The bar for achievement will always be held high at FRHS and temporary factors such as snow delays will not lower the expectations for learning and the demonstration of learning through finals or other exams.
- viii. The staff at FRHS believes that our students work hard and has faith that they can always demonstrate that commitment to learning.
- ix. DATA from a random sampling of student grades from Fall2006
Finals:
4% of final exams lowered student grades (A student with a 90% who does not do well on the final may earn a B in the course.)
81% of finals had no grade impact, but provided data on the achievement of students.
15% of final exams raised student's grades (A student with an 87% who got an A on the final got an A in the course.)