

MINUTES FROM WHS SCHOOL COUNCIL - APPROVED
APRIL 4, 2022

A meeting of the Wayland High School School Council was held remotely at 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 2022.

Present and participating remotely were:

Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)
Win Treese (Community Representative)
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)

Absent were:

Karen Brown (Parent Representative)
Zachary Mittelsteadt (Student Representative)

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation.

1. Allyson Mizoguchi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)		X
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Zachary Mittelsteadt (Student Representative)		X
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

2. Public comment

- Alexia Obar noted that the recording of the last School Council meeting was not posted yet on the WHS School Council website. In regards to course selection, she suggested that we reach out to students excelling in college classes and encourage them to take honors. Allyson responded that is something that is currently done.

3. Approval of minutes: 3/7/22
Motion to approve: Lilly Watkins
Second: Mike Hopps

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)	X	

4. Discussion of WHS course selection process in light of School Improvement Plan Strategic Action, “Review current processes of course selection and placement. Evaluate for clarity and bias.”

- Further discussion of suggestion to amend the override process by not placing students who are requesting overrides on a waitlist, but placing them directly into the scheduling mix so as not to disadvantage them. Although the actual number of overrides is small (and therefore rare that a student would be boxed out of a class), Robin Sklar suggested a “psychological shift” in the way we apply the override process.
- More on override process:
 - Concern from some members that the process is onerous. Also, discussion around timeline: can the process begin sooner?
 - Discussion around who is involved in the override meeting. Question from Robin as to why the guidance counselor needs to be involved. Allyson responded that the counselor has the global perspective on the students’ course load.

- Concern from one member about own experience in override process, and that the override meeting felt awkward.
- Win Treese posed question: If most/all overrides are approved, why not let students take whatever courses they want? Mike Hopps stated the process is designed to help student/family know that they might be biting off more than they can chew.
- Shavon Drayton suggested removing “barriers” for students and families who do not feel comfortable advocating for themselves.
- Erin Gibbons suggested making it a more universal process for everyone.
- Mike described challenge of the scheduling process and anticipating the number of sections of each course if the requests for courses differ dramatically from where students eventually end up (i.e. students end up dropping a level after requesting a higher level).
- Shavon observed the need to meet students where they are and individualize support so that students can be successful in more challenging level.
- Jill Swenson described her email to all students/families this year that explained the different levels of next course in sequence. Made information available to all.
- Robin suggested that teacher should be the ultimate gatekeeper.
- Win: What is the problem that we are trying to solve by this conversation? Are there systemic reasons keeping students of color out of these classes? Should a good experience in the college level class be disregarded as less valuable? Do we have a systemic issue that is preventing students of color from taking honors/AP or do we have a systemic issue that is pushing honors/AP in general?
- Win: Is the student going to be bored in the lower level class AND are they excited about the subject matter of the honors/AP class? Also, does the student have the skills that they need to survive in the class-both in terms of the subject matter and in terms of the executive functioning (asking for help, organization, etc).
- Erin summarized that we are trying to make the override process more equitable for all. Ways of standardizing process:
 - Ensure all teachers are talking with their students 1:1
 - All teachers send email to students/families about next courses in sequence as Jill did
 - Make process less daunting in general
 - Make sure the right people are at the table
- Allyson will bring these ideas/concerns to the Department Heads.

5. Possible review of “Phase One Key Indicator Report” from Metrowest Adolescent HealthSurvey administered in November 2021.

- Allyson explained that just received “Key Indicator Report” from MWAHS, which covers a range of issues related to student health and behaviors. Complete report will be available in late May.
- Madeeha Syeda underscored importance of having pre-pandemic data as well. Allyson explained that we have longitudinal data since 2006.
- Will try to share key indicators at next meeting, once district has determined rollout of information.

6. Items not anticipated by co-chairs

- Robin pointed out that agendas are not posted on the Town website. Allyson explained that she posts with the Town Clerk and there is different process from posting with the Town Clerk that she is trying to determine. Not an intentional omission. Agendas are posted on WHSI website and in eNews.
- Robin would like to follow up on previous School Council discussion related to Weighted GPA and offer community more opportunity for input.
- Robin made motion to recommend to Allyson to host a community forum to feedback on weighted GPA

7. Motion to recommend to Allyson to host a community forum to offer more feedback on Weighted GPA.

Motion: Robin Sklar

Second: Erin Gibbons

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)		X
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)		X
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)		X
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)		X
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)		X
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)		X

Motion does not pass.

- Allyson noted that in previous meeting there was a recommendation by School Council to provide more information to the community on this issue. Will discuss draft at next meeting.
- Erin asked whether a student could ask for their weighted GPA if they needed the figure. Allyson responded that it is a number that can be

calculated and provided. It is not a number that WHS reports. Nobody has asked for this number.

- Robin stated that some families are losing money due to lack of reporting of WGPA.
- Allyson reminded group that it was an approved policy by the School Committee and stated that providing clarity about the issue to the community should help answer questions/concerns.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Erin Gibbons

Second: Lilly Watkins

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Swenson (staff representative)

Allyson Mizoguchi (Principal/co-chair)