

# CATALINA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

## SITE COUNCIL

### MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

8:30AM

Present: Jody Brase, Cheryl Joseph, Jennifer Miller, Marianne Fett, Kelly Lantz, Gary Thompson, Bill Tong, Maria Pastorini, Justin Robinson, Jay Christopher, Jessie Petrillo, Melissa Lewis, Kiri Kenman, Amari Lampert, and Peris Lopez

I. **Call Meeting to Order** *Jody Brase*

Jody Brase called the meeting to order at 8:32 am. Group introductions.

II. **Approval of the Agenda** *Jody Brase*

Melissa Lewis motioned to approve the agenda. Cheryl Joseph seconded.

III. **Update Notebooks** *Jody Brase*

IV. **Review/approve Minutes** *Jody Brase*

Jessie Petrillo motioned to approve the minutes. Jennifer Miller seconded.

V. **Review/approve 18-19 By-laws** *Jody Brase*

Peris Lopez motioned to approve by-laws. Maria Pastorini seconded.

VI. **Nominate and elect** *Jody Brase*

Cheryl Joseph nominates Jessie Petrillo as secretary. Group approves.

Jody Brase nominates Marianne Fetts as co-chair/FFO President. Group approves.

VII. **Review Last Year's Accountability Report** *Jay Christopher*

- AzMERIT scores for last four years
  - ELA scores: AZ and CFHS scores are relative one year to the next. Striking how depressed they are-- more so than the skills of students statewide and schoolwide. Likely from lack of motivation, due to lack of "bite." Not sure how seriously anyone takes it.
  - Peris: feel like a lot of students don't put a lot of effort in. If so, not their best. Is it true that not required?
  - Jody: the reason we want everyone to take the test is that a lot comes into play with these scores. School would not get certain funding if rates get too low. Grades are a reflection on school and department. There are layers to the assessment and its requirements.
  - Jay: What could we do/implement that shows actual abilities as well as being useful for students? Several states are allowing SAT and/or ACT to be used as

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- statewide tests. Those students are getting free attempts at college entrance exams, and inherent motivation to do well.
- Melissa: English department looked at historical data. Teachers try to frame test as to why it's important and why good for school-- tough for students to see personal affect and therefore not all have buy-in. Also, AzMERIT is not a "good test." Tough to have multiple-choice exam when students have been "trained" to not have MC testing in English classes since elementary school. Department has been trying to strategize working with students on MC portion.
  - Jay: difference between our scores and state scores are accurate in terms of student performance. Both scores are "notched down."
  - Marianne: 10th grade daughter. They have lived in five other states. Daughter did not perform well on AzMERIT compared to other schools. Feels like it's a harder test than in other states that are known better for academics "It's like they were out to trick you... Poorly written test." Does not seem like a fair/accurate assessment, as it is not reflective of what is going on in the classroom.
  - Gary: two issues here-- student buy-in and quality of test. What other options do we have?
  - Jay: 13 other states are using SAT/ACT for accountability. If using SAT also have "AIMS Science"-type test for Science score. Indiana has used for over 5 years. ADE has said ACT can replace AzMERIT.
  - Jody: Mary Jo has looked into this also. We are seeing how other AZ schools are impacted before we act on this.
  - Difficulty on state level. They do not know what this will look like in terms of school letter grades. Not sure how to calculate.
  - Peris: free testing would make a huge difference.
  - Would need to figure out which classes would test. Likely only 11th graders.
  - Bill: big thing is motivation. Tyler (motivational speaker) stated how it's important to keeps kids motivated. Big concern with AzMERIT. We need to figure out how to keep kids motivated.
  - Jay: math scores-- keep in mind these are mixed classes (for example, 9th graders in Geom or Alg 2 classes).
  - Jody: look at diagonal and you can see cohort trend
  - Kelly: in 2015 ALL students were assessed. After that year, we took out students who did not pass first semester of course. Feels that math test is a good test and designed around standards. Test being rewritten this year to focus on deeper thinking. We have found that as long as we are teaching state standards, more of our students are reaching proficiency. Goal to have results in the 80% proficiency range. Discourage notion of having a one-time test be indicative of abilities. ACT is not aligned to anyone's curriculum.
  - Melissa: also important to note that in both ELA and Math, our students score at about 2x or higher than state average. Our students test well compared to others around the state.

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- Review of AP scores.
  - Reviewed number of students enrolled in AP courses, percent who tested, and percent who earned 3 or higher.
  - Important note about senior-level English course. Number of students enrolled and number who test has gone down significantly. Likely has to do with credit awarded at college level.
  - Melissa: also getting students who take test in Lit because they did not pass Lang (about half, anecdotally). Used to be the other way around when Lit was 11th grade class and Lang was 12th grade class
  - Gary: by the time they are seniors, they know where they are going to school and know whether they will earn credit or not. Again, motivation factor at \$94 per test.
  - Melissa: seniors love the option of the AP courses because do not want standard course. Take course whether or not intending to test because they want rigorous course.
  - Jay: semester-long courses-- maybe less inclined to take test in that area if you had it first semester.
  - Bill: any incentive funding that comes to school based on AP results?
  - Jody: school gets stipend and teachers get stipend
  - We have more AP offerings than we have ever had
  - Jody: look at % for 3-5, very impressive numbers. 81% total earn passing grades.
  - Kelly: we now have a huge range of students who are taking these classes and exams. Not just the "cream of the crop" anymore. Have students who want to challenge themselves.
  - Jay: last year we offered fewer tests than ever. "Smart shoppers" and high fees have impacted this.
  - Discussion of fees. Charges add up. However, can earn college credit and these fees way cheaper than tuition for those classes.
  - Jay: looked at 5 year summary for CFHS, AZ, and global scores. We score much higher. Reason for drop in tests= drop in students enrolled in AP courses who are testing. 662/990.
  - Melissa: 990 could be deceiving, as many of those are 1 student taking 3-5 classes.
  - Bill: trend in AP is that students are tired of burning themselves out if colleges are not accepting credits. May not be worth it to have some college credit if they are "killing themselves" to earn the credit.
  - Jay: number of students and tests going up globally. Our students are becoming smarter consumers with the "product" of AP testing. Important piece is that our scores remain high over time.
  - Students are well-informed about test options, college options, fees.
  - Marianne: would be good to have someone speak to FFO and clarify information with parents.
  - Noted AP Euro scores: maturation factor. Look at training they get from AP Euro to APUSH and how the scores have gone up. Several factors at play--teaching,

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foundational knowledge, etc

- Bill: why are we putting sophomores through AP classes?
- Peris: to get experience with an AP class. Helps prep for junior and senior year.
- Maria: a lot of students want to drop class within first month because it is so different and rigorous. However, once they get into a rhythm and work with teachers, they learn the culture of the course and are successful.
- Melissa: have to teach them proper habits and how they approach and tackle workload. Learn to adjust for Honors/AP classes.

#### VIII. **Review LY AdvancEd and SIP Report**

*Jen Miller*

Pushing this to Oct 26 meeting because of time constraints

#### IX. **Student Council Updates**

*Gary Thompson*

- Gary: over summer, contacted Tyler Durman to come back. Returning in March to speak with us and the Middle Schools. Will speak with teachers, students, and parents. Will have two different presentations for HS and MS parents.
- Peris: Homecoming next week: Thursday bonfire, Friday game+ fireworks, Saturday dance.
- Pep Rally after p4 next Friday
- Kiri: everything going smoothly so far. Next week is spirit week.
- Gary: donated just over \$3500 to Make-a-Wish. This is last year they are our official charity. This year our goal is \$4000.

#### X. **FFO Updates**

*Marianne Fett*

- Last big event was Fall Fling. 750 wristbands sold-- huge success and good feedback. Food trucks worked out well.
- First pop-up spirit store will be this coming week during lunches.
- Looking for teacher-of-the-year delegate.
- Peris: working on this in Council. Maybe can coordinate?
- This year's goal to raise money for gym sound system.
- Brick sales (in front of office)

#### XI. **School Update**

*Jody Brase*

- Parent-Teacher conference sign-up information coming Monday. Will be a link coming in email. Conferences will be Monday and Tuesday of Fall Break.
- Jody: This year has gotten off to a great start. Encourage students and parents to check VUE/gradebook. Reminder that quarter grades do not go on transcript. Back to data: part of AzMERIT/AIMS data is school-wide letter grades. Last year we were an A school. This year, grade will come out on Oct 5.

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#### XII. **Call to Public**

*Jody Brase*

- *Individuals who wish to address the site council are requested to complete a blue card. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda, however the topic may be placed on a future agenda. The Council requests that all comments be limited to three minutes or less.*

#### XIII. **Closure**

*Jody Brase*

Jody adjourned meeting at 9:34 am.

*Upcoming meetings:*

*October 26, 2018*

*February 1, 2019*

*March 15, 2019*

*April 19, 2019*