

# CATALINA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

## SITE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2018

8:30AM

Present: Jody Brase, Monisha Patel, Cheryl Joseph, Kelly Lantz, Justin Robinson, Maria Pastorini, Melissa Lewis, Jay Christopher, Tess Chua, Peris Lopez, Jennifer Miller.

#### I. **Call Meeting to Order**

*Jody Brase*

•Meeting called to order at 8:36 am by Jody Brase.

#### II. **Approval of the Agenda**

*Jody Brase*

•Updated agendas distributed (date change)  
•Monisha Patel moved to approve the agenda. Maria Pastorini seconded.

#### III. **Approval of the Minutes**

*Jody Brase*

•Jessie Petrillo moved to approve the October 27, 2017 minutes. Melissa Lewis seconded the motion.

#### IV. **Accountability Report / Accreditation**

*Jay Christopher, Jen Miller*

•Jody reviewed the accreditation process (team members, steps they took, etc). Explained they gave us a strength, a weakness, and an area in which we could enhance/possible growth. This feedback given to all schools that go through this process

•Something we can enhance: Integration of technology into the classrooms. It happens a lot on campus, but is something we can improve upon. Justin will work with teachers.

•Area of Strength: Mission and Vision. Campus climate and understanding of school/district mission evident on campus and able to be articulated. Indication of strong leadership on multiple levels (DCs, student leadership, admin, etc)

•Area of Focus: connections of adults and students. How can we enhance this?

•Jen Miller (AdvancEd process): connections piece is reflective of survey results from parents and students. Though this was a low number, still something we want to address. Surveys and interviews gave us good data as to how we can improve as a school.

•Jody: this was a 6-month process completed by a team of staff members. Their team was impressed with the high-level of work. Noted that our admin team started working on student connections with adults last summer, so it is a work in progress, but we know there is room for growth and improvement

#### V. **Committee Area of Focus**

*Jody Brase*

•Jay: want to facilitate open discussion of how students feel connected to at least one adult on campus. Sense is that most students are connected, either through academics, activities, or social life. However, there are students who need that connection. The team was impressed with idea

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of Advisory, but felt it could be more effective. Best to take existing systems we have and use resources in new ways. (Advisory, Counseling, Admin). Open floor to discussion:

- Tess: feel that the students who want to be involved, are involved. There are students who in HS may not want to be involved, and almost make their “job” to not be involved. Those are the students to reach out to.
- Jay: offer alternative or better sense that they CAN connect. Attitude may be “born” from lack of knowledge or skills on how to build connections. May need to teach them how to connect. When you look at ASCA model-- missing small group piece.
- Kelly: Advisory is a strength, as it is a class period. Don't have to create a random group. In the past, we have bombarded Advisory with “to-do” list. May need to have more opportunity to connect in “fun”/“playful” ways. Teachers need to feel like they have permission to do that. (Not everything needs to be academic and regimented).
- Jody: do we need teacher feedback on this? May depend on the personality of the teacher--don't want to turn into a wasted 30 min. May still need guided time (not just a free for all).
- Peris: have to have some sort of plan, as some teachers might not take initiative. For example, given list of questions and students move to sides of room.
- Jay: cookbook of activities and connecting activities.
- Melissa: part of current issue is Advisory is how “cookie cutter” some might be. Don't want it to be inauthentic. Some schools have once/week mandatory “club”. Students sign up previous year for particular club. Teachers then responsible for monitoring their group. Gives students choice (buy-in).
- Jay: at elementary level, a lot of what they do is physical/tactile. CAN put together activities that don't have to be verbal/intellectual, but can generate connectedness so that when something serious occurs, there's a better relationship.
- Kelly: crucial that students have an adult on campus that they can go to. PD will be a big part here. HS teachers have a primary responsibility to students, and not content. Needs to be held in the highest regard when presented to teachers.
- Monisha: have to balance connecting activities between peers and making that adult connection. Not all Advisories are created equally-- some teachers do their own thing. Hard to find a standard where everyone will feel connected to their Adv. teacher. Comes down to all teachers working with students.
- Justin: adults bring themselves down to student level. Show that not just rigid teacher, make approachable and human.
- Jen: when students see teachers in that light, easier to have those serious conversations. Students feel more comfortable talking to you re grades, attendance, etc because that rapport is there.
- Jay: when you hear something you don't feel comfortable dealing with, that's where small group comes in. Counselors are often most focused on post-secondary.
- Kelly: students have preconceived notion of what's going to happen in Adv. Need to retrain adults and students to new structure.
- Melissa: important to remember that teachers are not Counselors. Presentation to

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teachers needs to be deliberate.

- Jody: if not comfortable with Adv teacher that's ok, but hopefully have a connection with one of six teachers.

- Tess: life skill being taught at this level is huge. In college, if unable to build relationships and form/find group, will struggle.

- Jody: parent involvement is also helpful.

- Jen: for some students it comes naturally, for others-- they need the structure.

- Jay: used to get credit as TA. Students who didn't fit in anywhere else, but they had connection with teacher.

- Melissa: gave them place to go during free period.

- Jen: some students do this informally still.

- Jessie: used to get 0.5 elective P/F credit. Fact that it was on transcript made more accountable and formal.

- Monisha to Peris: how is 9th to 12th grade "senior sis" activity?

- Peris: many 12th graders not willing to do anything outside of school hours. Would be good to do more during day. We are having a freshmen assembly this spring, may help.

- Tess: LC leaders called about course selection.

- Jody: wrap this part up within a few minutes

- Jay: things to keep in mind-- teacher training and comfort.

- Peris: could students request teachers during Advisory? Some students unable to connect to their p3 teacher. Maybe they can request list of teachers they feel comfortable with.

- Melissa: faculty involvement at assemblies. Faculty vs. student sporting event, etc.

- Peris: Student Council wants that.

- Jay: we'll take these ideas and continue this process. There are ideas used at elementary level (i.e. passing water cup, passing ball of string and saying a nice thing).

## VI. Student Council Updates

*Gary Thompson*

- Prom April 14-- Oscars. Pep rally week before. Now working on Awareness Week March 12-16. Different issue assigned each day. Speaker will come on that Monday-- hopefully will help people feel more connected. Hoping to have parent assembly that night with same speaker.

- Jody: more info to come on that

## VII. FFO Updates

*Monisha Patel*

- Monisha: working on ideas for next year. Finding lack of engagement from parents this year-- hard to find help, financial donations down. Trying to re-evaluate FFO role and determining how to best support teachers. Continuing with Falcon Wear and grad night. Some officers are "graduating" so will need new members.

- Jody: thanks to FFO for coming to 8th grade Fly-Ins/orientation

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#### VIII. **School Update**

*Jody Brase*

•Jody:

- Sat. (2/17)-- Boys Basketball. Second round of state play vs Salpointe at 6:30
- Band to Rodeo Parade next week.
- Feb 27--Concert Band concert
- Feb 28-- Symph Band concert
- March 6--Steel Drums concert
- March 16-18, 22-24-- Musical for Theatre Dept.
- April 2-8-- AzMERIT

•Jay: Thursday, March 8 we have 47 seniors (randomly selected by the Federal Govt to test) who will be taking the NAEP exam. Students were sent a letter home. Will meet with students the week before.

•Important to follow website and Flash for upcoming events and announcements

#### IX. **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.*

#### X. **Closure**

*Jody Brase*

- *Jody asked for motion to adjourn. Jen Miller seconded.*
- *Meeting adjourned at 09:22am.*

*Upcoming meetings:*

*March 23, 2018*

*April 20, 2018*