

University High School Council

Minutes 2020-2021

Meeting Date: 12/08/2020

Meeting Location: Zoom

Members present	Administration	Faculty	Students	Parents
	Joel Bacalia	Beth Braun	Iselle Barrios	Siobhan Daniel
	Karla Martinez	Kimberly King	Sydney Kim	James Mandolini
	Rosalinda Rodriguez	Jeff Marchant	Jade Kuan	Amber Kleefeld
		Ann Mitchell	Randy Navarro	
		Jacob Ollanik	Mila Tomizuka	
		Mike Schmidt	Ananya Munjal	
	Community Members	Leiba Schuneman		
		Matt Ulrich		
Members absent	Community Members	Faculty	Students	Parents
	Kevin Gebert		Andy Pendleton	Barney Holtzman
	Kris Tully		Rachel Dai	Paisley McGuire
	Administration			Tim Sonier
				Kara Vatthauer
				Marcela Kecip

Agenda:

- I. Meeting called to order at: 3:34PM
- II. Welcoming of new members:
 1. New UHS Assistant Principal: Karla Martinez
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - i. Motion by: L. Schuneman
 - ii. Seconded by: J. Mandolini
 - iii. Discussion/Debate: None
- IV. Approval of the November 10th, 2020 Minutes
 - i. Motion by: I. Barrios
 - ii. Seconded by: Kleenfeild
 - iii. Discussion/Debate: None
- V. Call to the Audience

VI. Discussion & Action Items

1. Action Item: Approval for UHS Finance Office to use donated Tax Credit monies to reimburse families for the money paid towards AP tests that were not taken due to COVID
 - i. Motion by: Schuneman
 - ii. Seconded by: Bacalia
 - iii. Discussion/Debate:
 - a. J. Baclia- give AP students what the district intended for them to have and/or was donated on their behalf
 - b. J. Mandolini- What tests didn't happen?
 - c. M. Schmidt- The AP College board said that any student that didn't wish to take the test could opt out and be refunded. Because some of our AP tests were paid for with tax credit money the AP board couldn't refund
 - iv. Vote: Approval for AP Credit Refunds passed unanimously
2. Action Item: Approval for UHS Administration to authorize other Tax Credit reimbursement for activities that were affected/canceled due to COVID.
 - a. The UHS Principal will be allowed to act on behalf of the UHS School Council to authorize or refuse any further requests of the UHS Finance Office for reimbursements of Tax Credit donations.
 - i. Motion by: J. Bacalia
 - ii. Seconded by: I. Barrios
 - iii. Discussion/Debate:
 - a. I. Barrios- are there any authorization expected?
 - b. M. Schmidt- none are expected
 - c. J. Mandolini- clarification, this is only for people who did not take the donation as a tax credit?
 - i. Bacalia and Schmidt- That is correct
 - iv. Vote: Approval for future refunds passed unanimously
 3. Discussion Item: From UHS Instructional Council; Discussion with stake-holder groups about possible pros and cons of the possibility of teachers utilizing grades of P(pass) instead of letter grades in an effort for this COVID semester to have less of a negative impact on Student GPA.
 - a. Explanation that this cannot be a mandate to all teachers, but can come as a recommendation from IC, School Council, and/or UHS administration.
 - b. Necessity of keeping Failures for the students that truly need to repeat the course
 - c. Maintaining A and B grades to boost GPAs

- d. Possibility of replacing C and D grades with a P
- e. Possibility to allow families to opt out of a B for a P?
- f. How do stakeholder groups feel about this idea?
 - 1. M. Schmidt- it is the teacher's decision and their decision alone to post a grade
 - 2. J. Mandolini- Both teachers and students were learning this semester and the transition was a struggle. It's a good idea to provide this opportunity to teachers
 - 3. M. Tomizuka- As a student she's been impacted by being at home during education. How do you think universities will view a "C" during a pandemic year in the middle of an otherwise stellar grade profile? Will universities prefer a "P" to a "C"
 - 4. M. Schmidt- None of us can really answer M. Tomizuka's question. The benefit of the "P" is that it neither benefits nor harms a G.P.A. it does not add numerically to the denominator or numerator.
 - 5. I. Barrios- Will this be an option presented to student after receiving the semester grade?
 - 6. M. Schmidt- What would you prefer?
 - 7. I. Barrios- Most worried about what the colleges see. She would like the decision to convert her grade to a "P" to be her own after knowing what grade she earned.
 - 8. M.Schmidt- the information, earned grade, will be stored officially so that if a student wishes to change from P to grade at another point.
 - 9. J. Bacalia- We are trying to create options for teachers and families
 - 10. M. Schmidt- this needs to be a family decision, both student and guardian signatures required
 - 11. S. Kim- as a sophomore will I have the opportunity to change my "P" to a grade or vice-a-versa?
 - 12. M. Schmidt- it will never be an issue to allow the change from "P" to grade but there will likely need to be a deadline for converting a letter grade to a "P"
 - 13. S. Daniel- Is the "P" going to lower rigor for our students? Also, feels that the more we can do for our students the better.
 - 14. M. Schmidt- Echo's that what he hears from the students is just what S. Daniels stated
 - 15. I. Barrios- as the change to "P" will be after the fact and wasn't known earlier it's not a risk to reducing motivation

16. M.Schmidt- Is a student's grade a C or D because it's the best they can do or because they are not working hard? This is also very much an equity issue
17. J. Kuan- has been struggling with the transition to distance learning and that the option is important to have. Technology has also impacted student's ability to learn
18. J. Ollanik- I've seen a lot of struggling 9th graders. These students don't have the support and any help we can provide the better
19. J. Mandolini- rather let the guilty 5 go free than punish the disenfranchised students. The vast number of people struggling are doing so for valid reasons
20. L. Schuneman- in favor of not taking punitive measures of kid. We have a hard time assessing if our grades are reflective of our students learning. There are classes that build upon each other ex. Algebra 1 is necessary for every other math class. A D in Algebra is not posted
21. A. Kleefeld- Their family chose UHS because of the community and network of adults and that has changed drastically with distance learning. Freshman are also struggling with mental health issues. Confident that teachers will choose the best for their students
22. J. Kuan- Will the request for a "P" include a conference with counselor and parent/guardian?
23. J. Bacalia- Working through this process now. Yes, guardians and counselors, and students will be involved in this process.
24. J. Kuan- If a student is normally an A student or B student have a grade bump with extra work instead of a "P"?
25. M. Schmidt- We cannot mandate that as a council. What he sees is that students that are working are getting grade they want and that those that aren't are not. Want's to avoid kicking the can down the road.
26. J. Bacalia- Teachers are working with students currently on a one-on-one basis

VII. Committee & Misc. Reports

a. Principal's Report J. Baclia

- i. Thankful for input from council. Attended a forum with students expressing their struggles. Teachers are also struggling and sharing honestly about their challenges
- ii. District family survey- will need volunteers to tease through the data
- iii. Suggest box and Butterfly on website for providing suggestions
- iv. Hybrid? We still have not heard anything about a return date or modification of the hybrid. The power is with the superintendent and

beginning the new year we will have three new board members

- b. Tax Credit & Budget Committee Report R. Rodriguez
 - i. Beginning balance \$37,789.71
 - ii. \$1,100 deposited
 - iii. \$4,130 stipend paid – one paid

- c. Recruitment & Retention Committee Report R. Rodriguez
 - i. News regarding admission during meeting tonight
 - ii. Recruitment videos will be posted shortly
 - i. Exception- admissions portion
 - iii. Welcome freshman event sometime middle of Feb, drive thru event, with food, positivity, and lots of volunteers

- d. Instructional Council Report A. Mitchell and L. Schuneman
 - i. Discussion of grades and success of sharing ideas
 - ii. Discussions center around what do students need to demonstrate
 - iii. What are grade implications?
 - iv. How are we going to assess incoming students next year?
 - v. How bizarre next weeks schedule is A, B, B, A exams begin at 8am

- e. UHS Foundation & Alumni Association Report Pass
 - i.

- f. Parents Association Report- S. Daniel and J. Mandolini
 - i. PA meeting Thursday at 6PM
 - ii. New V.Pres voted in

- g. Student Council Report S. Kim
 - i. Spirit week:
 - i. Monday 12/14: Hat Day
 - ii. Tuesday 12/15: Plaid Day
 - iii. Wednesday 12/16: Penguin Day (B&W + UHS gear)
 - iv. Thursday 12/17: Ugly Sweater Day
 - ii. Charity clothing drive coming up
 - iii. Virtual social actives coming up
 - iv. What is the status of winter sports and extra curriculars?
 - v. Phase 2 with Phase 1 restrictions 10 people with no physical contact indoors or outdoors. Masks at all times

- VIII. Request for Agenda Items for next meeting (please submit action & discussion items in electronic format)
- IX. Reminders
- a. School Council meeting time and place will be posted 24 hours in advance ~~(on UHS Admin. Bulletin Board and in public)~~ on the UHS Site Council website: <http://uhssitecouncil.weebly.com/> Attendance and minutes will be submitted to a School Council officer prior to the next meeting.
 - b. Please observe proper decorum and schedule your time to be able to attend the entire School Council meeting. Each meeting should last 90 minutes and will be adjourned by 5:00 p.m. A quorum, your time, and your participation are valued assets of the UHS School Council.
- X. Motion to Adjourn:
- i. Motion by: Ulrich
 - ii. Seconded by: J. Bacalia
 - iii. Discussion/Debate: none, unanimous

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12th, 2021