



VRHS SAC Meeting

March 7th, 2018

Meeting Began: 5:31
Meeting Ended: 7:00

UIP, Safety & Security Updates

Safety Concerns:

- Locked doors

- Hats

Walkout [Email](#)

UIP Update

Elaine Charney, Assistant Principal

Parent Email to be sent out tomorrow regarding **building safety** -- specifically locked doors and head coverings -- in response to recent nationwide and local events.

Students will face disciplinary consequences if they open doors (providing building access) for others. Next year, to further ensure security, students will be required to wear visible IDs when entering the building.

Security team members adjusting and reassessing major areas of concerns. Security team will visit other D49 campuses to find out what works best for VRHS. Additional Security Staff are currently being added to be proactive.

Questions arose regarding early morning student arrivals & guest IDs and badge protocols.

Walkout Email

Email was sent to parents regarding the planned Walkout on March 14. All classes will still be in session and the location of the Walkout is organized so that it will not be unsafe or a distraction to the students who remain in their classes. VRHS is not condoning this Walkout, but is making sure that our students who choose to participate are safe and not creating a disruptive environment by establishing a set of rules and creating awareness of those rules.

UIP (Unified Improvement Plan) Update

Handouts include status reports of current and ongoing improvement plans. Some of the plans include ICAP, Concurrent Enrollment, classroom strategies, Pathways,

EEOs (Evidence Based Outcomes), and testing.

SAC follows UIP all year long and does a beginning of the year and end of year assessment/ review.

Pathways (Current and Future)

- What we've already done (1st Semester to Present)
- Finishing the 2017-18 school year
- Future of Pathways (differentiation for each grade level)
- Feedback?

Sarah Temple, Dean of Pathway Learning

Handout included summary of all of the items that are supposed to have been completed by all students up to this point as well as what is currently in progress for second semester.

Students' Pathway course flow: Pathway Exploration, Pathway Design, Pathway Mastery 1, Pathways Mastery 2

All students started in Pathway Exploration, regardless of grade level, this year as they all had to start from the beginning as this is Pathways inception year.

A major focus for students this year was to learn how to truly understand their ICAP and appreciate how is a functional and individualized plan for them.

Pathways requires a cultural shift throughout the VRHS community in that it requires everyone, including students, teachers, staff, parents, employers, and community members to have meaningful conversations regarding educational, career, and personal goals.

Some of the Success/Employability/ 21st Century/ Soft Skills that are being taught are about how to be present and professional -- putting your phone away, focusing on the current conversation, note-taking, and time management skills with real-life skills.

Students completed MBTI Test (personality) in addition to their YouScience and got to have fun and meaningful conversations with their teachers and classmates regarding their personal attributes and aptitudes.

Students have built resumes - framework or fine tuning depending on their grade level. Students will continue to have conversations throughout their Pathways classes regarding how to build resumes that are relevant to their career pathways.

Students will be with their Pathways teachers all 4 years so that these projects, lessons, and conversations can continue to build and teachers can continue to share their individual insights within their own areas of expertise.

Goal is to see number of Ds and Fs drop with all of these skills that are being taught that can be used in all of their classes.

Currently:

Seniors

12th graders would like the opportunity to use the full Pathways class period as a free period to use as a study hall. In response, Administration and Mrs. Temple have decided to allow Seniors to complete their Senior Research Project that demonstrates mastery of the 10 Quality Indicators, attend at least 2 Break Out Sessions, meet with Dean of College Advising, and conduct an interview.

Juniors

SAT Prep Class or Employability Skills class

Building framework for Digital Portfolios after SAT has been completed on April 10

Digital Portfolios will help students compile all of their goals, notes, resumes, achievements

Sophomores and Freshmen

Employability Skills course curriculum

Building framework for Digital Portfolios

Guests have been invited to discuss career fields, employability skills, necessary experience and different pathways to get to where they are. Career-exploration field trips are underway where students can group job-shadow and participate in a daily activity in that field/career.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center Visit March 15

Students will get interview/ resume experience and will be priority invites to the Young Adult Job Fair

Ronald McDonald House Charities

April 17th to recruit student volunteers for their Summer Programs.

Questions

Zone alignment with continuing with something similar to iPad Team carried through the High School Level with devices issued to each student. Additional Chromebook Carts are being added to the building but network infrastructure will have to continue to be evaluated in order to support this amount of devices. Goal is to have enough devices for at least half of the student population to be on devices at any given time. Seniors testing out of Pathways a consistent offering? Goal is for 2nd semester Seniors to focus on whatever their upcoming transition (job shadowing/ apprenticeships/ scholarship applications/ etc.)

Goals: More parent/ community involvement/volunteering to come in and speak to

students about real-world life experiences & more student engagement/ participation in events.

Extended Lunch

- Regular Lunch = 30 min
- Extended Lunch = 45 min
- This time is built into the [bell schedule](#)
 - Increases opportunity for students
 - Does not reduce instructional time
 - “Study hall” like
- Serves multiple purposes
 - Reward system
 - Stagger students being released
 - Reduces complexity of scheduling multiple lunches (coverage)
 - More planning opportunities for teachers

Jason DaLee, Assistant Principal

Students do not miss instructional time during classes if they have extended lunch as it is built into the schedule.

During Extended Lunch, announcements occur, teachers provide “study hall”/ additional questions answered/ catch up time/ making up a quiz/ etc. during that 15 minutes.

Extended Lunch originated as a Rewards System and as a way to stagger the release of students to help further support building safety measures in regards to Administration and Security presence and building regulation.

Allows for teachers to have extra planning and meeting time since we have only 1 lunch so all teachers have a common time to meet.

Extended Lunch - Continued

- Multiple purposes continued
 - Social time for students
 - 40 students survey
 - 30-best thing ever
 - 5-crowded but wouldn't change
 - 5-super crowded due to Black Box
- The majority of teachers / departments use this as meeting time, including interdepartmental meets (department chairs)
- Next year - aux gym for basketball, main gym for socializing, new Black Box open

Bruce Grose did a survey of 40 students, some came from other schools and some have been here the whole time. Results demonstrated

Time utilized for interdepartment conversations, as well.

Some of the over-crowding is due to construction.

Most teachers appreciate having only 1 lunch.

Clubs, tutoring, and off-campus college courses are able to happen due to extended lunch and 1 lunch

Safety was the biggest concern with coverage on multiple entrance/exit points with that many students. With staggering of release of students and having only 1 lunch, we are able to maximize the amount of staff available. Additional question: Is Extended Lunch just a way to not have 2 lunches? 1 lunch and extended lunch benefits outweigh the need to create 2 lunches.

Registration Follow-up

New Process - smoothest year yet

Counseling working on Power School and development of Master Schedule with the data collected

We will continue to refine the process moving forward to support the Power School shift

Jason DaLee

All counselors met with **every single student** to quickly review their course selections and discuss course offerings/changes.

VRHS is moving to Power School as our student management system (currently Infinite Campus)

As this adjustment occurs, we are working on developing an even more efficient and smoother system

Substitute Waiver (Innovation Vote)

- [What is it?](#)
- Presented to Staff ([Generated Questions](#))
- Will send email after final revision tomorrow
- Staff Innovation Vote next Tuesday, March 13
- Need a SAC vote tonight
- Submit to Mr. Hilts by Friday next week

Jason DaLee

D49 and all of Colorado Springs schools are running into deficiencies of good Substitute Teacher pools.

As of today, we have had 1,203 requests for substitute teachers and only 1,017 have been filled (only 86.36%).

The Waiver would allow the District to have their own process for determining/ hiring a qualified substitute versus the State Licensure process currently.

Background check, security screening and significant career experience and/or formal education will be required. This would add to the Substitute Teacher pool, not replace it. Current state procedure requires potential subs to pay for sub license, this could potentially eliminate that fee for applicants.

D49 would provide additional PD and training. Cost to the District would not increase. Benefit to the district as a whole is that our pool is bigger and then teachers will not have to cover additional classes. Additionally, with allowing subs to be highly experienced individuals from the community, they would be more invested in doing a good job.

Current criteria for subbing is assessed / hired at different levels.

Question: Has this been done at other school districts? Not sure, but charter schools currently utilize a system like this. Teachers would still be able to select/ preference who subs for them and would have even more of an option, making subs stronger.

District Name Change

Video explaining:

Our official name is currently El Paso County School District 49

Pikes Peak School District was the #1 choice due to the immediate descriptive property of it (physical location).

Heavy suggestion was to not name it at all - just call us District 49

Good feedback for dropping "Falcon" due to location confusion and as a united district versus specifically Falcon


Big concern for amount of money that would have to be spent re-branding

Additional concern - pipeline to PPCC?



Final Questions or Thought?

None



Next SAC Meeting April 4, 2018

Topics:

- Registration Follow Up
 - Testing
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Registration follow up
Testing