

COFFE HOUR NOTES – 2/2/18

**Disclaimer: These notes are not official school or FA approved minutes. They are informal notes taken during coffee hour.*

FA Announcements

FA is looking for executive committee members for general elections to be held in next few months. If you are interested, please contact Jen Turner or Lara Sup at chair@pvcicfamilies.org for more information. It is a very rewarding experience and a great way to get involved with our awesome school community.

Expansion Request

The expansion request was denied, but board of trustees have asked the BESE to review the decision to deny, at February meeting. A bus will most likely be organized to get community members over there. The state has hired a new commissioner of education.

What is school doing for planning for extra space for next year?

The school is looking for space locally. One possibility is at the mall next door, not terribly desirable as the space is the old planet fitness with no windows. Principal Wang is getting contingency plans together and gym space is always the problem. Creative ideas for gym class may be needed. They'd like to broaden the high school, but without authorization cannot add more diverse classes because of classrooms and staff. In the meantime, the current school should be fine for next year.

Has there been a discussion about staggering start time?

No. Start time will stay the same, but there has been discussion about ending school earlier. There was a discussion about study hall, can school get rid of study hall or keep it and use it to get homework done, not pulling kids for Chinese dictation on some days. Many parents suggested cutting the amount of homework. Kids are taking different times to get same homework done. Some kids get it done at school while many take 3 hours nightly.

School has a lot of time learning Chinese, if we start chipping back at time are we going to lose contact time with Chinese? Thinking about college programs, the kids in our school are going to have amazing opportunities in China for college or with their language and we might lose that if we lose contact time (time in classroom by shortening day). High school schedule is a little different than middle school. It's on a two or three day schedule. That way kids can take a breather, and also training them for a college schedule.

If the schedule was cut back, it would be forever, so need to make sure it's not going to impact the program if it happens. There's no going back.

Many parents are upset about middle school things being offered and not hearing about it?

Kids hear about things with interest flyers then a signup goes up on middle school board in hallway on fourth floor. Parents are not hearing about all opportunities. Tennis and volleyball will be coed clubs learning skills and drills. Spirit squad and drama club are also clubs. Lego and math club too. All clubs will be for middle and high school clubs. Right now things are going to have fees, and chances are that will keep on going unless we thought about creating a booster club to help pay. Right now there are not many elementary programs because of lack of interest.

Back to college opportunities, 10 out of 11 kids got IB diploma, kids came back to talk to high school kids about college experience. Every single student that came back felt well prepared for college. School did better than world wide average on IB so schools are starting to show lots of interest and ask about our program for college. Also, colleges are excited about IB kids because they are better prepared for college.

Possible more bussing for next year. Survey might come earlier so school can plan. Bussing from Northampton, some kids take PVTA from Northampton and get off at Walmart stop.

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