

PTO Meeting December 2015

Matt Hass, Assistant Superintendent presented the Homework Survey

Mr. Hass described the committee as having administrators, pediatricians, and parents involved in looking at the quantity and quality of homework given to students. He said that they were looking at the topic from the perspective of health including sleep and stress.

When the group started, they realized that there were no guidelines about homework and only 12 schools had any policies or guidelines. So the goal of the Health Advisory Board on the topic of homework is to provide some uniformity. They realize that it will take time and lots of conversations with students, teachers, administrators, experts, and parents/guardians.

The survey itself had 2000 responses including 400 teachers. 40% of parents said there is too much homework. There is a gap between parents and teachers on the amount of homework. Parents claim no correlation between homework given and the actual course.

Discussion about quality of homework, internships for credit, utilization of Blackboard, opportunities for entrepreneurs. Having students develop portfolios of successes, digital look books, passions pursuits. How do we get out of parent and teacher pressure and into student led learning.

By mid January, hope to have draft guidelines.

PTO Business

Principal's Update

- Mr. Bonham reported replacement of ceiling tiles & removing old TVs from classrooms.
- The kitchen is being upgraded in April and will be complete for fall of 2016.
- Greenhouse is on track.
- There has been a minimum reportable number of cases of Whooping Cough at WAHS. That is all Mr. Bonham was able to report.

Deb Donnelly raised the topic of becoming a 501c(3) to be able to establish a banking account and accept funds online.

Next Meeting: second Monday in January at 7:00 pm.