

SLHS SIP Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2007

Attendance:

Parents: Sue Zimmerman	Students: Lindsay Heikkinen-9 th	Staff: Sue Hillman
	Robert Swain – 10 th	Ron Weber
Guest: Dr. William Pearson	Brooke Schaffer-11 th	Larry Jackson
	Kay Ann Schlang – 11 th	Denise Brandon

Meeting called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Chairperson Kay Ann Schlang.

Three items were requested to be added to agenda:

1. A debriefing of the Michigan Merit Exam
2. Further explanation of the A+ grade
3. Sip Evaluation

Motion to approve agenda as amended made by Robert Swain, seconded by Denise Brandon. Motion approved.

Minutes from March 1, 2007 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as written made by Sue Hillman, seconded by Ron Weber. Motion approved.

MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM - Mr. Jackson asked students and staff to comment on how they viewed the two days of testing.

Timing - Kay Ann Schlang and Brooke Schaffer (the only juniors on the SIP committee) felt that it took too much time to collect materials and they had to wait too long after the testing was over (they finished at 12:30 p.m.). Administrators stated that the fear was that there would be too much commotion in the hallways if some students were dismissed before others. Mr. Weber advised that extra time was built into the schedule, as this was the first time we administered it. His class was done at 12:45 p.m. Sue Hillman stated that some of her special education students worked until the 1:10 p.m. dismissal time. Assistant Principal Lisa Delvecchio advised that check in didn't take as long as the time that was allowed. Different classes took different times to check in and therefore the test started at different times. ACT stated that we should not stick to a building wide schedule, but start the test when each room was ready. Next year we can look into other options.

Homework - Some juniors had homework to do over the two days of testing, which they found long and tiring. It was asked if there could be a policy for teachers to not assign homework for the two days for everyone in the class. Another suggestion was that juniors could get additional days for homework, but the fairness of some students having more days to do homework was questioned.

Food - The juniors on the committee believed that the breakfasts and snacks went well.

NCA/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT - Assistant Principal, Lisa Delvecchio, gave her report. NCA stands for North Central Association which South Lyon High School belongs to and guides us in school improvement. NCA will be renamed Advanced Ed and will become more of a regional organization.

Staff Involvement - Last school year the staff had two goals: 1. All students will improve their mathematical problem-solving skills across the curriculum. 2. All students will improve their writing skills across the curriculum.

For the rest of the year, the goal is to look at the draft of the goals more closely. Next year is a baseline data year. We set up a plan, develop strategies, implement them and then assess everything to view the results.

Credentialing - Teachers were asked to choose twenty-five students (some teachers with a small student base chose less) who were not doing well in their classes, look at several criteria, and come up with ways to help those students be more successful. Teachers will be following these students and reporting if these methods worked. Kay Ann Schlang asked if information about these students not doing well was shared between teachers who only had the students for a semester. We will be encouraging teachers to share this information with each other. Credentialing is important because we have to be accredited by NCA for many colleges to accept our students, and we have to have students reach a certain level of performance for No Child Left Behind.

A+ GRADE - We are going to add A+ to report cards. Students may earn an A+ when they have a card marking average of 98%, 99% or 100%. An A+ is equal to 4.3 and will be used when tabulating each of the card markings and the final exam. While the 4.3 will allow for a “banking of points”, **no final grade will exceed a 4.00**. We have contacted Skyward and they need to write a computer program for this to occur. That program will not be completed until sometime in May. Therefore, while a student may have earned an A+ on this or the next card marking, it will not appear on the report card, but will be used when the final grade is computed. An explanation was mailed to parents.

SIP EVALUATION - We are using the form from last year. We agreed to keep the form the same. Number 5 on the form (What issues would you like the SIP committee to address?) was discussed. Members asked if this question should be more specific. Mr. Jackson said that he would be more comfortable making #5 more specific. We could change it to say “What High School issues would you like the SIP committee to address?” The consensus of the committee was that we should not deal with an issue we can’t approve. We now scroll SIP minutes on the TV monitor and this was a previous suggestion.

Returning Evaluation Forms - A concern was voiced that people did not know where to return the form. Teachers are to return the form to Ron Weber’s bin. It’s hard to get the form from parents. Maybe it should be sent back with students. The questionnaires are due April 27.

Getting out SIP information - Some parents asked if another newsletter would be coming out. Another one will be sent out at the end of April. Minutes are put into the H.S. newsletter. Parents do read this. A suggestion was made to list committee members on the SIP form. Ron Weber was revising the SIP form during the meeting. Ron and

Larry Jackson will meet to go over the revised copy. That copy will be sent to members for other suggestions.

Next Meetings - Weds. April 18, 2007 and May 16, 2007 Office Conference Room. Motion to adjourn was made by Sue Hillman, seconded by Lindsay Heikkinen. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: S. Hillman (acting as secretary for D. Beagle).