Minutes: Academic Excellence committee 4/1/14

- Presentation of course catalogue- Draft for next year
    - Class Rank and GPA- brief discussion about class rank if weighted grades were to be implemented
    - Scheduling – priority for seniors- try to move periods when there are conflicts. Looking at:
        - Accelerated class: AP classes
        - College Prep class: some AP
        - Vocational: Eng. 12 and other classes –so courses won't conflict with different pathways
        - Accessibility to AP classes
        - Virtual learning
        - Columbia Greene
        - Early College isn't weighted into T.H. GPA
- Board Meeting: Angel presents
    - Weighted grades
    - HW policies
    - Website redesign
    - Self-esteem
- Report card elementary school- major revamping with common core standards. Next meeting 4/9
- Enrichment committee- overhaul- new approach. In past not enough students, committee has decided to design courses. Run like continuing educ. program i.e. week with horseback riding. Parents need to pay- not tax-payers. Liability issues are taken care of, as is Cori check.
- Weighted Grades (weighted subject!)
    - Looking at distance learning (in terms of weighted grades).
    - Policy or procedure set by T.H. weighted grades are policy issue
    - Advocate for as much consistency as possible
    - Questions on committee's charge- to policy, to board, to administration. Combo of groups and admin/guidance would create draft idea to be proposed. Our role is trying to make it easier based on available research.
    - Parents and students are stake-holders - make suggestions- Board then directs administrators.
    - Subcommittee needs to meet to condense and summarize findings, consider factors. We agreed that weighted grades are a good idea for school. Because we don't have expertise we will present a rational for our position i.e. incentives, statistics. Acknowledge pros and cons.
- HW Policy
    - Anita Archer –handout.
    - Faculty meeting look at past practices. Is HW beneficial to basic skills?
    - Best practices on planning assigning H.W. Faculty sharing HW approaches. Why do students not do HW? Faculty have mixed feelings – student motivation, haven't bought into school, not relevant. Comparing policies. Relevant homework.

    - Platform for providing input into the board of Educ. Marie is continuing to have discussions with dept. members – consistency through grade levels. Points or percentage weights?
    - Standard based report cards. Aligning grading policy. What is correlation between HW completion and student grades? HW as evaluative tool. Incorporate standards into comment section.
    - HW policy for Marion school district. Do we want to add a range value-H.W. is worth a certain amount? Template for course outline that includes policy on HW-providing info to parents.
- John and web page usage:
    - 135 teacher web pages 71 have gone to Google sites. 63 are still on TH web page.
    - Ensuring academic excellence link
- Self-esteem: k-12 - recognition
    - Academic awards, scholarship, seminars, athletics, after school, anti -bullying
    - College and career readiness planning- how to help students without parental resources.
    - Students involved in decision making.
    - Award ceremonies more personal-detailed. Description of scholarships.
    - How to promote engagement of all students. Invite students to be on this committee. Honor role is in Register, can it be posted on website? Progressive honor roll (most progress made) or efforts honor role. Elementary student council- attendance.
- Academic eligibility – scholar athletes' squad – do we need a policy on eligibility to play?
    - Coaches can help ensure students keep grades up during season.
    - New subcommittee on athletics and academics. Colleges have requirement.
- Agenda Items:
    - New issues athletics and accelerated classes.
    - Student reps visit
    - Encourage parents to come to meetings
    - Self-esteem- high school sports helping elementary sports. Mentoring-National Honor Society helping students with HW.