

Granite Bay High School School Site Council



Wednesday, October 14, 2020

4:30pm – 6:30pm

Zoom Meeting (info below)

This meeting is open to the public

Minutes

1. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm by Maya Seagraves. All members were present except Sophia Hickey. Members of the public were present tonight as well as Mr. Griffin, Mr. Healy & Mr. Sitterud.
- Icebreaker: The group reintroduced themselves and told what their favorite fall activity is.

2. Approval of September Minutes

- Kyle Holmes motioned to approve the September minutes. Paige Watson seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the September minutes.

3. EL Update (Hernandez)

- Mr. Hernandez held our first ELAC meeting earlier this month but no one attended. One parent emailed him afterward and told him there may have been a Zoom glitch. He will mail out a flyer with all of the dates for future ELAC meetings. He is hopeful that there will be a better turnout next month.
- ELAC stands for English Language Advisory Council. It consists of mainly EL parents. These meetings are designed to keep parents informed about what's happening on campus. They also keep parents involved and helps to bridge the gap between languages.
- It was asked if it would help if these meetings were reported on social media. Mr. Hernandez believes yes and no. Some parents just aren't comfortable participating. He is also finding a lack of response by both students and parents in all forms of communication (phone, email, etc.).

4. Principal's Report

- Hybrid Update

- We had 364 students assigned to group A (Monday/Thursday), 329 assigned to group B (Tuesday/Friday), 1,272 assigned to group C (Distance Learning), and 63 assigned to group D (all 4 days) for a total of 2,028 students.
- On Monday we had 383 students on campus. On Tuesday we had 334 students on campus. We also had a few kids show up not knowing what day they were supposed to attend.
- Mrs. Leighton asked for feedback from parents and students
 - One parent noticed the demeanor of her student was cheerful and happy after the first day back. Her student said the day was short and not very many students came. Her student said kids were respectful about wearing their masks. Kudos to RJUHSD for giving their students the choice to come back to campus now when other districts won't look at this until January.
 - One student said that they had a rough time with coming back to campus and didn't see the point with everyone on zoom.
 - One student said that they only had 2 academic classes and it wasn't as bad as it would have been if they had 4 full academic classes. It was weird sitting in a zoom in a classroom. They can see how many might not like it. They noticed a lot of complaining about wearing a mask but no one took it off.
 - One student said it was nice to socialize with friends. They got to talk to fellow peers in class during breakout sessions instead of doing a zoom breakout session.
 - Mrs. Leighton said everyone was dropped off at the front which caused a backup. Some students forgot to fill out the health screener. It was a learning lesson.
 - One student said they are still online. First period was a struggle because of the delay in getting students in but yesterday was good. It seems like it is harder for the teachers. Coordinating the students on campus and at home seems more challenging.
 - One teacher said it was going fine but it is challenging to talk with a mask on all day.
 - One teacher said it was nice to be with students again. They do have to balance paying attention to zoom and in person students and trying not to leave anyone out.

- Mrs. Leighton said it is hard to find a middle ground with all of this. Providing a choice is great. Most students were good about social distancing but as they got more comfortable throughout the day they started to move closer together. She reminded everyone that exposure is 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of someone. No passing period is more than 15 minutes. We do have a 20 minute nutrition break but by the time you're out and moving to class, the exposure should still be within an ok time period.
- Mrs. Leighton advised that we have 33 teacher sections covered by 17 teacher subs and 1 daily sub who covers 4 periods a day. Our staff really jumped in to protect our staff members that are most vulnerable.
- Mrs. Leighton advised that if a teacher gets sick, we scramble to find coverage and this will continue to be a challenge.
- We now have 3 locations to check in at to help with dispersing the traffic . The Library is for 9th graders. The front entrance is for 10th-12th grade. Any grade is allowed to enter through the gate at Feist park.
- Mrs. Leighton showed the daily health screener website and how to complete the form by answering the essential questions.
- We still have to work through some challenges. We have sound control/interference problems. We are hoping to install new microphones and new camera systems that would allow for more teacher movement around the room (social distancing of course!). We have to continue to follow the health and safety guidelines or we could be at risk of losing our insurance.

5. Public Comment

- Before the public comment started, Mrs. Leighton & Mrs. Stanley reminded everyone to be respectful and productive with their comments. We want to hear from everyone, but don't want to repeat the same comment/question.
- Mrs. Leighton advised that she believes the public comments will be about renaming the student section. Woodcreek has also renamed their student section. Mrs. Leighton has invited Mr. Healy, Mr. Sitterud and Mr. Griffin to attend tonight's meeting as they have been involved in this process.
- Mrs. Stanley facilitated the public comment section. Each person will have a minute and a half to speak.
- (Student names omitted for privacy)
- Student - Why did the administration make the decision to change the name of the Tribe without student input? This is a student led section and the students should have been involved. Mr. Healy advised that while we do encourage students to

pick their own leaders, the student cheering section is not entirely student led. GBHS students represent the community and GBHS at large. This is a school and community issue, not just a student issue. Mr. Healy has been working with the 6 current leaders. They will send out some ideas for the new name and solicit responses. This decision is not void of student interaction. Mrs. Leighton advised that Mr. Healy has always wanted students to drive this, but anything run at the school ultimately has to be run through the leadership of the school. It can't ever be solely decided by students. This student said there is concern that a lot of the students didn't know where this decision was coming from. They know this topic has been talked about but other students felt left out. Mr. Griffin said that students will have a say in what the name will be. We will send a survey and will be able to have input on selecting a name. Mr. Healy advised that the leaders are working on sending something out to students. It takes a creative person to come up with new names. We branded the Tribe for GBHS and we think we can do that again with the new name. Also, Mr. Healy acknowledges that change can be hard but we have the opportunity to be better and be more inclusive.

- Student - The student described the definition of a tribe - meaning family. It is not meant or defined in a racial way. This student wanted to know why it is being viewed as that. Mrs. Leighton said that not everyone feels like that. Sometimes it is hard to know, outside of our bubble, how people are feeling. At one point, students used paint on their faces and that was celebrated. Mrs. Leighton asked that if there is a way to make this more inclusive, why would we pass that up? Mr. Healy added that this student's interpretation of tribe is not universal. Your definition isn't the typical definition in world culture. The goal of all of this is to connect as many people as possible. Our objective was to break down as many cliques as possible so everyone felt like they belonged. We don't own the term tribe. If we can do better, we should do better. We want everyone to feel like they belong and are a part of something. This is what the 6 current leaders are trying to do. They are going to do their best to do something to lead us to the next level. This student asked why we didn't send a survey to ask if changing the name would make people feel more included. The student also wanted to know the number of people that wanted the name changed. This student is hearing that a lot of people don't want to change it and it seems unfair. Mr. Griffin advised that this is one situation where the majority isn't a factor. Our admin has had numerous conversations with a variety of groups and they do take offense. Mr. Griffin said it's our responsibility to evaluate and reevaluate. This was a decision that had to be made in the best interest of all of our students.
- Student - Who is going to pay for all of the rebranding? Mr. Healy said most of this will come from the athletics budget. We will have new shirts that will come

out and over a series of time it will come out of athletics as well. Our students won't bear that cost. The student asked if they will be able to purchase new shirts. Mr. Healy said yes, but we need to come up with the name and then we will start the new designs. He is hoping to have it by January. The student asked if keeping the name is out of the question. Mr. Healy said yes.

- Student - If the definition given above might not be interpreted in the same way, what other definition would be seen as inclusive? Mr. Griffin said that the use of tribe moniker seems like appropriation of other cultures. Sometimes symbols (like face painting) have meaning in other cultures. We want to respect all cultures and we need to evaluate that. Mrs. Leighton advised that we've often had kids that have paint on their faces and abs. This projects an image that isn't in alignment with grizzlies. We are trying to find something that is inclusive to everyone. Over time standards change; the world changes. We've become more aware. There are things that were acceptable 10 years ago that are not acceptable now.
- Mr. Hernandez mentioned that when thinking about the word tribe and reflecting on what everyone has said, he can see how the word may not be as welcoming to others.
- Student - Thanks for taking comments. The definition of tribe - group of persons having a group of common characteristics, group, etc. This student understands what the admin is saying but the majority of people at GBHS are trying to feel included. Mr. Griffin advised that it is not a matter of surveying what students think about this change. We have current students that have said they are offended by it. This is not something that goes to a vote, but it is important to have student input as we move forward and start anew.
- Student - A previous student asked if this was a racial issue. Is it? Mr. Griffin said that he is not sure if there is a distinction. Mr. Griffin was trying to be specific on how it was being interpreted. People that have come forward have empathy for their friends that were impacted by this. It wasn't just one group of people that came forward. Mrs. Leighton advised that it is more than a racial issue. That is just a piece, but why is tradition more important than making everyone feel included? Another student added that there is a difference between racial issues and cultural issues. The original student asked what if we change the name and someone else comes forward and is offended? Mrs. Leighton said our name shows our values and priorities. Mr. Griffin added that there may come a time when it might become offensive. 200 years ago or much less than that, there were words that were used to describe black Americans. The 'n' word was normal. But since then, we've reevaluated that and made a conscious choice to change. The word colored used to be used. Now that is an offensive word. African American was a normal term, but not every black person identifies as an African American.

We try to adapt as we learn different perspectives. The goal is to be more mindful. The student said that this is hard for seniors. It is one more thing that is changing. Changing the name sucks for them. They have shirts. They were unified as part of the Tribe. Mr. Griffin asked if tradition or the thing that you've wanted to be a part of is more important than knowing that it could hurt someone. Is it more important to have something you've always wanted? The student said that something is always going to offend someone. This could happen again next year. Mr. Griffin said that cultural appropriation isn't about inclusion. It's a form of discrimination or marginalization.

- Student - A lot of what is being said is about the Tribe being a family and GBHS culture. GBHS culture isn't just about a name. It's more than a name.
- Student - A lot of people have Tribe shirts. Is it going to be discouraged from wearing them? Mrs. Leighton said that we are still working on this. Mr. Healy said that we should accept the new beginnings. He hopes that students will want to wear the new shirts.
- Ms. Johnson wanted to make a comment but her internet wasn't working well so she wrote in the chat area. She wrote that she loved hearing from the Granite Bay Family discussing inclusion, empathy, cultural appropriation, and implicit bias. I teach William Golding's novel "The Lord of the Flies" about a group of marooned British boys who become "tribes" on this uninhabited island. From their perspective they become savages. This is historical and cultural. Colonizers degraded humans by calling them tribal and making that word synonymous with savage and primitive people.
- Student - This student feels proud that the legacy of 2020 is one of respect and inclusivity. We should be looking at how we are affecting people in a negative way. It is good that we are doing this.
- Student - This student understands that the idea behind people taking offense to tribe, tribal paint, etc. Mrs. Leighton stopped the student as she said not to generalize the paint. That was just an example. The student asked what is to stop the new student section from wearing paint. Or is it bigger than that? Mr. Griffin advised that the name isn't the only thing that is being addressed but we are starting with the name.
- Mrs. Leighton wanted the seniors to know that we are not trying to ruin their senior year. We didn't create the coronavirus or the environment that we are in. We miss you and value you. We want you on campus. We realize that this is tough on you and the intent was not to make it harder. We know traditions are a big deal. We are hoping that this would give you something new to define and leave your legacy better at GBHS. We are not trying to take things away from you. We don't make the rules or county guidelines. She has been surprised by

some of the backlash. Student input still matters. Changing the name is a district-wide decision. That is why Woodcreek changed their name. We do still want your input though. Mrs. Leighton ended by thanking everyone for respectfully sharing their point of views. It means a lot to hear from everyone.

- Senior parking spots were brought up in chat. One comment noted “for senior parking spots, it’s the tradition that matters to us more than us literally parking our cars in them.”
- Chat comment: I agree, it's just one more thing being taken from us.
- Chat Comment: We could also paint an “A” or “B” in the corner of our spots so everyone knows.

6. Adjournment

- Kyle Holmes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Daniel Hernandez seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 @ 4:30pm

Voting Members

Parents: Christy Nihart, Renate Felsner, Irene Richard

Students: Maya Seagraves, Abdullah Chaudhry, Jay Daily, Sophia Hickey, Izabella Hillman, Cian Teague, Paige Watson

Staff: Jennifer Leighton, Lisa Stanley, Kyle Holmes, Phoenix Johnson, Stephanie May, Michelle Restani, Meagan Swartz, Daniel Hernandez

Zoom Meeting Information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rjuhsd-us.zoom.us/j/96362566391?pwd=MHJtTzJVNzZSMVdobi9HRW9WMnICZz09>

Meeting ID: 963 6256 6391

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