

PAC-Meeting Minutes, 02/02/2016

Attending:

Sean Woytek, Moira Compton, Mary Polino, Ashley Hein, Leigh Bright, Margery Poitras, Jane Katz

Head of School update:

Sean felt like the education fair went well, but that AHS still has a bit of reputation that needs to be dealt.

Intent to enroll forms are being submitted and so far have 36 freshman, 4- 10th graders, 1- 11th graders. this number increases by about 10% each week. AHS has 294 total students now. if 9-10 grades reach 108 applicants, there is a lottery. 85 students for 11 and 12 grades, and they have a lottery.

Sean feels like a total enrollment of about 350 students is optimal. This would make the teacher/student ration between 20-25/1.

The Informational nights are going well, but the reputation issue is still popping up.

The *youth truth* survey came back- students are happy and the academic level is good.

College readiness is not beneficial to younger grades. Maybe introduce younger grades to more college campuses and college opportunities. The students need more attention to what would be a good fit for them as individuals. Some of the issue is that there has not been a consistent person at AHS for this position. It takes more than 1 school year for the college counselor to get to know the students and this is proving difficult.

Moira- has been helping Jess prepare younger students to start thinking about college.

Perhaps AHS could offer bootcamps to introduce kids to what they want from college and how to achieve that. The advisors need to be involved as they will know the students better than Jess.

Mary- asked where are AHS students coming from? last year 75% came from MMS.

Many people are curious/concerned about the AHS facility. Twin Buttes is still not certain of their building future, but the school can remain at the current location for the next several years.

If charters are included in mill levy, this would generate significant and much needed funding for the school.

Sean seems happy with his place at AHS and the Durango community and eager to continue. His biggest struggle is handling small town politics.

Mary would like to help get more information out to the public to inform them of AHS activities and accomplishments - maybe facebook.

Ashey- it is time to find new funding from the community and parents. AHS needs personal accounts of why their kids chose to go there- we need to get the message to the community that AHS is a special school offering students a different, rigorous education that excites students to do more.

Ashley would like to put on a spring fundraiser for the community, presented by AHS. It would be like **Grease's** end of the year school fair!