

JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL
FMSAS GENERAL MEETING #4
TEACHER'S CAFETERIA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015
6:30 P.M.--8:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:45 P.M.

Quorum was established. Board members present: Peter McNulty, President; Christine Tucker, VP; Marylou Mejia, VP of Fundraising; Josie Contratto, Secretary.
Student Leadership Cabinet: Khoa Tran
Restorative Justice: Kristine Tserunyan
Licensed clinical social worker: Karla Alvarado-Goldberg
Larry Welch, SAS Faculty Coordinator
Craig Burton, Counselor
Various SAS parents. (Sign-in sheet available.)

Miss Kristine Tserunyan gives an in-depth presentation regarding Restorative Justice.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Restorative Justice (RJ) is a new discipline foundation policy adopted by the Board in 2013 and adopted by the school district in May 2013. The district revised and amended the Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (SWPBIS). This is an alternative to suspension.

In the past, if a student misbehaves, the student automatically goes to the office. With the new approach, the philosophy is to treat the student with respect, make further inquiries to get to the root of the problem. An example of a corrective action is for the student to write an apology note to a teacher and/or apologize to classmate. Also, discussion circle amongst parties involved, including parents, to attempt to resolve and understand a situation.

(Only Category 1 offenses are subject to suspension, e.g., carrying weapons, making threats.)

- Marshall was chosen as a demonstration site due to high rate of suspension. In 2013-2014 school year, Marshall had a 2.99% suspension rate. Disproportionate suspension rate for subgroups. This school year, less than 1 percent suspension rate.

- Philosophy approach SWPBIS: Foundation of respect,

positive school culture. The goal is to get everyone on board at all levels to foster this foundation -- parent-student, student-student, teacher-to-student.

Next month, there will be a Restorative Justice banner ceremony. (Date and time TBD.)

- Task Force Members: Ms. Tserunyan; Mr. Flores; Mr. Colato, dean; various parents. Meet Mondays after school. First meeting: Revised Code of Conduct.

- Again, the goal is to promote positive principles for the school community. By 2020, this policy will be implemented districtwide K-12. Michelle King, Senior Deputy Superintendent, has been working on this initiative since 2007.

- Restorative Justice is already implemented in Oakland, California.

- Complaint form available for parents. (See link below.)

- Karla Alvarado-Goldberg discusses students coming to school with stresses and importance of teaching students not to use avoidance, teaching skills to regulate emotions. Wants to destigmatize stress management. Services offered at school: Healthy Start; grief group; trauma program; stress management.

- Suggestion made to promote (RJ) during parent tours, recruiting, as a selling point.

Ms. Kristine Tserunyan is located in the Title I office. Phone number (323) 671-1191.

Ms. Karla Alvarado-Goldberg is located in Room 146. Open-door policy. No phone number available.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND SWPBIS, PLEASE GO TO DFP.LAUSD.NET.

Khoa Tran, Student Leadership Cabinet, discusses:

- Creating an SAS Student Mentoring Program to assist struggling kids. Pairing up juniors, seniors with freshmen and sophomores.

- Upcoming 2nd Annual SAS Awards Program in recognition of the kids' hard work throughout the year. Requesting funding for certificates, banners, etc.

Mr. McNulty, President, discusses:

- Fundraising: Raised \$8,300. Portion to fund student-event ideas.
- Lunar New Year Fundraising.
- Implement guest speakers symposium for students.
- March Elections for new board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.